

Iraqi papers attack Mideast peace conference

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's state-run newspapers have again attacked a proposed Middle East peace conference as an American plot to give away Arab land.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, in a front-page editorial Tuesday, said the U.S. and Soviet-sponsored conference was designed to enable Israel to hold onto the occupied territories and Arab East Jerusalem.

It said the United States would try to use the conference, planned for October, to force Arab states to submit over the question of Israel's seizure of Palestinian lands in the 1967 war.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi said Iraq would not recognise the outcome of such a conference.

Al Thawra, commenting the day after Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat discussed U.S.-brokered peace efforts in Jordan, said there could be no compromise on the issue of Palestine.

The paper said Baghdad's support for Palestinian rights was a key reason the U.S.-led coalition went to war against Iraq to end its seven-month seizure of Kuwait earlier this year.

"The U.S. administration is trying to take advantage of the consequences of this aggression to liquidate the Palestinian issue and impose its submission plan," Al Thawra added.

The Kurdish newspaper Al Iraq asked in an editorial "A peace conference or a trap for submission?"

Calling America "the god-father of racist Zionism," it said the "unjust" U.S. administration had no right to call itself a peace propagator.

"The motto of the American administration is everything to Israel and nothing to Arabs. So it is obvious under this motto that the peace settlement conference is an American trap to force Arabs to accept a complete and comprehensive submission without any conditions," Al Iraq concluded.

Sudan junta seizes 2 more over coup plot

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudan's military junta has seized a former minister under deposed Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi and a retired brigadier, both accused of plotting a coup, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper reported Tuesday.

In a report from Khartoum, Al Hayat named the two as former minister of presidential affairs Salah Abdul Salam Al Khalifa and retired Brigadier Abdullah Al Amin. The paper said they were detained on Sunday.

Al Hayat said Saturday that former ministers of education and finance Bakri Ahmad Adil and Bashir Omar Fadalla were being held in connection with a plot to overthrow the junta.

On Tuesday, the paper quoted Brigadier Ibrahim Kheir Al Tayib as saying in a speech to Khartoum's Academy for Administrative Sciences that none of those detained for alleged involvement in the plot had been executed.

"We will challenge any person to prove that any executions have been carried out," Al Hayat, quoted Brig. Tayib as saying.

Sudanese opposition sources had said they expected the junta to carry out executions and at least 15 people had been detained since the latest round-up began.

Gen. Tayib said the plotters had intended to abolish Islamic law (Sharia) in Sudan.

Lieutenant-general Omar Hassan Al Bashir's 12-man junta, which overthrew Mr. Mahdi in a 1989 coup, executed 28 army officers in April last year after a secret trial for an alleged plot to topple it.

The question of Sharia law in Sudan is at the heart of a rebellion in mainly Christian and animist south Sudan where guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army have been fighting since 1983 to counter the influence of the Muslim, Arabised north.

Warning of famine

A visiting senior U.S. relief official warned Monday tens of thousands of people are facing famine in western Sudan where food stocks are running out.

Andrew Natsios, in charge of overseas disaster relief at the U.S. Agency for International Development, said food supplies "have dwindled to nothing" in the state of Darfur, 900

kilometres west of Khartoum.

Mr. Natsios, who toured the western part of the country for three days, said 70,000 of Darfur's four million inhabitants have nothing to eat and that the food already shipped to the area falls short of the population's needs.

"The period between now and the beginning of the harvest which will take place in 45 days will be the greatest risk for the population there," Mr. Natsios said.

Speaking to reporters after he met Gen. Bashir, Mr. Natsios said tribal conflict, rain and poor means of transportation are hindering relief efforts to the western part of the country.

The official said many children in northern Darfur could die as they are threatened at the same time with malnutrition and a malaria epidemic triggered by river floods from seasonal rains.

He said he emphasised to Gen. Bashir the seriousness of the situation. He also made a number of suggestions that could help the relief operation such as increasing the number of trucks transporting food to the area and improving telecommunications to coordinate aid activities.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Cheek who attended the meeting said the agency headed by Mr. Natsios has donated \$1.5 million to improve transportation and communications.

Darfur has been suffering from a two-year old drought and is one of the areas most seriously threatened by famine in Sudan. Efforts to send food to the remote area have been hindered by difficult transportation conditions.

'Ethiopians in Sudan miserable'

Tens of thousands of Ethiopians who fled into eastern Sudan have inadequate medication and food and are living miserably, Sudan's top refugee official said Tuesday.

Refugee Commissioner Abdul Rahman Sirul-Khatem told the newspaper Al Inqaz Al Watany the government and the Sudan office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to improve the refugees' conditions.

Thousands of Ethiopian soldiers entered neighbouring Sudan last May after rebels overthrew President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Soviet emigres, Falashas clash in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AP) — Tensions between Ethiopian and Soviet Jewish immigrants boiled over into a massive brawl outside a Jerusalem hotel Monday. Four Soviets were stabbed in the violence.

Police said the brawl was set off by a children's quarrel two days before. The quarrel had been dispersed without injury, but apparently not settled.

On Monday, dozens of Soviet immigrants from the hotel, joined by Soviets from a nearby hotel, started a brawl with dozens of Ethiopians, police said.

The Ethiopian Jews, known as Falashas, apparently had expected something and were ready to protect themselves, a police spokesman added. Knives, sharp tools, stones and steel rods were wielded in the fight.

During the clash, four Soviet Jews were slashed in the face and arms. Police said the four were taken to Ein Karen Hadassah Hospital in good to fair condition. There were no reported Ethiopian injuries.

Police dispersed the violence and restored relative calm to the hotel, but were hindered from further investigation by an electrical blackout in the neighbourhood.

Additional forces were posted overnight to prevent further violence and investigation was continuing in the morning.

Some 600 of the 14,000 Ethiopian Jews airlifted to Israel in May five with 200 Soviet immigrants in the Jerusalem hotel that has become an absorption centre.

The Ethiopians say the Soviets are jealous of the attention they have gotten from the Israeli public, the Soviets accuse the Ethiopians of being dirty and having a negative influence on their children.

Each side accused the other of starting Monday's brawl. Ethiopian immigrant Solomon Lior told Israel Radio the Soviets had thrown plastic at an Ethiopian without provocation on Sunday and started the fight Monday in the same manner.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen shoot policeman in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Two unidentified gunmen shot and seriously wounded a policeman outside his Istanbul home Tuesday, Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said. The gunman escaped after the attack in the working-class district of Alibeykoy. It was not immediately clear who might have been behind the shooting. The urban guerrilla group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) has killed a number of police and security officers in the past. Dev-Sol claimed responsibility for the Aug. 19 killing of British businessman Andrew Blake in Istanbul. The little-known Turkish wing of the Islamic Jihad also claimed that attack.

Iraqi police arrest currency forgers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi police have arrested a three-member gang which was dealing in large amounts of foreign currency and counterfeit money, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Monday. It quoted the director of the anti-crime unit in Baghdad's Saddam City neighbourhood as describing to the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah how the unit tracked down the gang by allowing one of its detectives to pose as a currency dealer. The agency said the police seized 20 million Iranian riyals (about \$300,000 at Tehran's official exchange rate) and \$12,000 found with the gang. The money was sent to the central bank to be checked, it added. INA gave no other details apart from identifying the ringleader as an Arab national named Ali Hassan. Iraq had accused Iran of helping to flood the country with forged money. Iran denied the charge.

Niger president barred from Libya visit

NIAMEY (R) — Niger's national conference has barred President Ali Saibou from paying an official visit to Libya, conference sources said Tuesday. The collective chairmanship of the pro-democracy conference, which has whittled away most of Mr. Saibou's prerogatives, turned down his request to attend the inauguration ceremonies for Libya's vast man-made lake. The sources said a conference vice-chairman, Alhaji Soumaila, left for Tripoli Tuesday to represent Niger. Since it began work on July 30 Niger's national conference has followed the example of similar forums in French-speaking Africa by taking over effective control of government. In an early decision delegates maintained Mr. Saibou as "provisional" head of state but under their supervision. Last Friday Mr. Saibou accepted political and moral responsibility for the killing of three students by security forces in the capital Niamey in February 1990. The incident triggered months of strikes and street protests which forced Mr. Saibou to abandon one-party rule and convene the conference.

Bomb scares in Kuwait City

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaitis were evacuated from a government office complex, two shopping malls and a girls' school Monday after anonymous telephone calls saying bombs had been hidden. No explosives were found, security officials said. It was the first report of bomb scares since the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation on Feb. 26. Major Nasser Al Radhian, an official at the Interior Ministry, said officials received the four calls between 11:30 a.m. and noon (0830 and 0900 GMT). He said the targets were a ministries' complex, the posh Salihiya and Dasman shopping malls and the Al Rika Girls' High School. The ministries and malls are downtown, and the girls' school is near Alhadi, the country's main oil town south of Kuwait City. Major Radhian accused a "fifth column" in Kuwait that is bent on causing this kind of trouble. The phrase "fifth column" has been used to describe alleged Iraqi agents left behind after the seven-month occupation or their sympathisers. Major Radhian noted that the government previously has warned that such agents could cause trouble. Security has been a major concern in the emirate, which suffers from a shortage of trained policemen and soldiers. Kuwait has announced it is considering a programme that would have Kuwaiti volunteers assisting police in keeping law and order.

Turkish Cypriots to turn monastery into museum

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriots are spending \$22,000 to turn the 1,500-year-old St. Barnabas Monastery into their biggest museum. Esber Serakinci, minister of education and culture in the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, said the museum would open before the end of 1991 displaying icons, religious relics, murals and antiques from Christian and Roman eras. "Work is under way. The church itself has been repaired and restored. The outer buildings (comprising about 20 rooms) will be altered and repaired," Mr. Serakinci told Reuters. It would become "the biggest museum of north Cyprus" and the 100-million Turkish lira (\$22,000) bill would be paid by the Turkish Cypriot government, he said. The monastery, 45 kilometres east of Nicosia, was built in 477 A.D. at the place where the body of Barnabas, disciple of Jesus Christ, was said to have been uncovered. It is a tourist attraction but has not been looked after since 1976 when its caretakers, three monk brothers, left because of poor health and old age.

Saudi government cracks down on bribes

JEDDAH (AP) — The cabinet has raised the fine on conviction for taking a bribe in Saudi Arabia to 10 times the value of the money received, newspapers reported Tuesday. The decision, a severe tightening of the penalty, was adopted at the cabinet's weekly meeting Monday chaired by King Fahd, the newspaper reports said. Jeddah is the summer capital for the government. Earlier, fines for bribery were rarely more than the amount of money received. The fine comes in addition to a maximum two-year jail sentence, which remains the same. Expatriates convicted of bribery are deported after the sentence is served. The new rules also reportedly allow the government to ban companies from government contracts if their directors or employees commit bribery in the interest of the firms. The ban would be reconsidered after five years. Oil-rich Saudi Arabia is one of the highest spending countries, as the government spends billions of its oil revenues annually for trading and construction purposes. Monday's cabinet meeting also raised the ceiling on fines for convicted forgers to 10 million riyals (\$2.65 million).

Brunner: Parley could be delayed

(Continued from page 1)

de Cuellar's special representative to the Middle East, said he had discussed with the U.N. chief international developments affecting the situation in the region.

Recent events in the Soviet Union affected directly or indirectly the planned conference since Moscow was a co-sponsor of the gathering, he said.

U.N. officials have said the world body would participate in the conference as a "silent observer." But Mr. Brunner said details of its role still had to be defined.

He said no venue had yet been fixed for the conference. "There are different candidates. For the moment nothing has been decided."

A newspaper said Tuesday, Israel has demanded a series of U.S. undertakings that could put off the peace conference.

The Arabs have also taken a position that could jeopardise the negotiations, the independent Haaretz said. Egypt, Syria and Jordan have decided not to send senior delegates to bilateral talks with Israel unless Israel halts settlement activity in the occupied territories, it said.

The conference is supposed to consist of an opening ceremony, followed by face-to-face negotiations between Israel and each Arab delegation. Agreement has not been reached on Palestinian participation, and U.S. diplomats are trying to draw up separate memorandums of understanding with Israel and the Palestinians that will enable both sides to attend the talks.

According to Haaretz, Israel is demanding U.S. acknowledgment that the Jewish state will stand alone against an array of Arab states at the conference, and that Washington will therefore not support any Arab position that Israel opposes.

Israel also wants American recognition that its pre-1967 "borders were not secure," and that U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, the cornerstones of Mideast peace efforts, are open to conflicting interpretation.

The United States is being asked to recognise that Jerusalem will not be "redivided," although Washington is not required to recognise Israeli "sovereignty" over the Arab sector, Haaretz said.

Haaretz said Israel wants the United States to ratify the accord it mediated in 1983 ending the state of war between Israel and Lebanon. The accord was abrogated by Lebanon the following year.

Haaretz said Israel's demands were not conditions for attending the peace conference. But it said some of the demands contradict U.S. policy and therefore could force a delay in starting talks.

Foreign ministry spokesman Baruch Binah would not spell out Israel demands or comment on the individual points raised by Haaretz.

He said Israel had delivered one "very preliminary draft" of its demands to the Americans at the beginning of the month, and had not gotten any U.S. feedback on it yet.

Iranian envoy meets U.N. chief

(Continued from page 1)

Britons, two Germans and possibly one Italian, who some reports have said is dead.

Mr. Kharazmi lamented the fact that the Israelis had made no gesture in response to the release more than two weeks ago of an American and a British hostage.

Lebanese groups are demanding the initial release of at least some of the Lebanese and Palestinians seized by the Israelis or their militia allies in southern Lebanon.

But Israel is refusing to do so without concrete word on the fate of its servicemen — such as a recent photograph or a visit from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Hizbollah, which admits to holding at least two Israeli servicemen, says it would not give out free information without something in return.

Diplomats said one way out might be to arrange a simultaneous ICRC visit to the Israelis and to the Arabs' holds or some other plan involving the Red Cross.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar planned to meet ICRC President Corrado Sommaruga Wednesday, and the ICRC's chief delegate to Lebanon discussed the hostage crisis with a member of the Hizbollah politburo in Lebanon Tuesday.

A Hizbollah spokesman said Christophe Harnisch met Mohammad Al Khansa, a member of Hizbollah's politburo.

Gorbachev threatens to quit

(Continued from page 1)

Georgia, in the Caucasus region, declared independence March 31. Uzbekistan's president, Islam Karimov, Monday ordered the drafting of a declaration of independence and decreed that Soviet Interior Ministry troops and the KGB in the republic be transferred to his control. Armenia is to vote on independence on Sept. 21.

The Soviet president spoke after meeting Tuesday with three of the increasingly powerful republic leaders — Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Askar Akayev of Kirghizia and Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. Mr. Akayev said other republic leaders were not in Moscow Tuesday and that Mr. Gorbachev would probably speak to them by telephone.

As the presidents met privately, the National Supreme Soviet legislature spent a second day examining the hardline Communist coup. Key posts remained vacant in the national government, including the chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet.

Meanwhile, details about last week's failed putsch continued to emerge. The TASS news agency reported that a leader of a team of KGB commandos refused to storm the Russian parliament building — Mr. Yeltsin's headquarters, and the centre of nationwide resistance to the coup.

Mr. Major, current chairman of the G-7 group of major industrial powers, has largely taken the same line as Mr. Bush on aid to the Soviet Union, saying it should be linked to reforms leading to "a just and democratic system" and defence cuts.

Key pieces still missing in hostage swap jigsaw

BEIRUT (R) — Nearly three weeks ago Lebanese kidnappers freed Briton John McCarthy with a message for the United Nations spelling out their demands for the release of the remaining Western hostages.

Since then, governments, kidnap groups and the United Nations have laid down the pieces of a diplomatic jigsaw which could result in the swap of hundreds of Arabs held by Israel for the hostages.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who was meeting an Iranian envoy in Geneva Tuesday, says he sees signs of progress in the hostage crisis.

"I continue my hope that something very important will happen in seeing all the detainees set free," he said Monday. "When I cannot say, but things are moving and moving at a good pace."

But several major pieces in the hostage jigsaw are still missing. They are:

— The fate of seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

— The fate of four Iranians missing in Lebanon since

1982.

— The fate of hundreds of Arab prisoners held by Israel and its surrogate South Lebanon Army militia, including kidnapped Hizbollah (Party of God) cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid.

— The fate of two Shiite Muslim brothers, Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi, jailed in Germany for hijacking, kidnapping and murder.

United Nations envoy Italian Giandomenico Picco Monday briefed Mr. Perez de Cuellar on the results of his mission to Israel last week, details of which have not been made public.

Iran said at the weekend that despite the freeing of Mr. McCarthy and American hostage Edward Tracy earlier this month there had been no corresponding gesture of goodwill by the other side.

Tehran suggested that Washington should exert pressure on Israel to free detained Arabs.

Security sources in Lebanon say the four missing Iranians seized at a Lebanese Forces (LF) checkpoint in Beirut are dead. Iran insists they are still alive.

A Hizbollah team led by its Secretary-General Abbas Musawi is holding talks in Tehran with top Iranian leaders on "current events in the region and the latest developments concerning Lebanon and Palestine," Iranian Television reported Monday night.

Hizbollah, accused by the West of being an umbrella for kidnap gangs, refuses to say whether two Israelis it holds are alive or dead or to identify them. Hizbollah denies involvement in hostage-taking.

Israel's chief hostage negotiator said Sunday he had evidence an Iranian missing in Lebanon for five years was alive but demanded proof of the fate of six other Israelis.

"We know that Ron Arad, the navigator, is in the hands of Iranians or Iranians controlled from Tehran," said Uri Labrani, Israel's top trouble-shooter for Lebanon.

Mr. Labrani, demanding irrefutable evidence on the fate of the missing Israelis before freeing any Arab prisoner, did not explain how Israel knew Mr. Arad had survived his five years in captivity but his remarks followed Mr. Pico's visit.

Lebanese groups close to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah hold five Americans, two Britons and two Germans. Lebanese security sources say a missing Italian is believed to have been killed.

Of the seven missing Israelis, Arad and Druze Samir Assad are the only ones known to have been captured alive. The Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine says Sergeant Assad was killed in an Israeli air raid.

Pro-Iranian sources in Beirut say a "gentlemen's agreement" has been reached between Tehran and Bonn that would lead to the inclusion of two German hostages in the swap in return for the eventual pardoning of Mohammad Ali and Abbas Hamadi.

Bonn denied the report and said it would not make any deals.

"The Germans are held by followers of Hizbollah security chief Abdul Hadi Hamadi, the elder brother of the jailed Hamadis.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	Variety programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	Variety
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	A Kind of Living
21:10	Six Kites of the Sea
22:00	News in English
22:30	Le Roi Mystère

PRAYER TIMES	
04:42	Fajr
05:07	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37	Dhuhr
15:14	Asr
19:11	Maghrib
20:32	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
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De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 622365	

WEATHER	
It will be fair and windy with	
northerly moderate, in Aqaba,	
which will be northerly moderate and	
sea calm.	

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625453	
American Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
American Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751	
American International Church Tel. 663326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611235	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623642, 649322	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	

AMMAN	
Dr. Tayseer Al Saeidi	777636
Dr. Wael Damini	776800
Dr. Jassim Maray	678946
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala	(-)
Farm Pharmacy	661912
Fendous pharmacy	776336
Al Aqsa pharmacy	677035
Naturochik pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoubi pharmacy	644945
Starline pharmacy	676600

JERUSALEM	
Dr. Safer Al Mithal	(-)
Al Sharaf pharmacy	(275825)

ZARQA:	
Dr. Mufied Damm	(-)
Khalil pharmacy	983417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN 45 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.	RAJ Flight Information 08-53300 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300	AMMAN: Human Medical Centre 213813/32 Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Al-Hadi Maternity, J. Amn 644412/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 6
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King commended for helping Palestinian, Jordanian expatriates

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has received a cable from the president of the Third World Economists Society, Dr. Yaqub Suleiman, commending the King for his role in helping the Palestinian community and demanding that the United Nations intervene to put an end to their mass expulsion from the emirate.

"I am honoured to voice the society's deep pride in Your Majesty's honourable and national stand, particularly your staunch and humanitarian support for the Jordanian and Palestinian people evicted from Kuwait, that country which they constructed and where they served as the backbone for its prosperity," Dr. Suleiman said in his cable.

The displaced population had no where but to turn to you and take refuge in your hospitable country, which opened its arms to them," Dr. Yaqub said.

"We condemn the forced eviction of Arab nationals from Kuwait and the show trials and inhuman treatment accorded to the civilian population in Kuwait and call on the international community to halt all these atrocities and repressive actions," said Dr. Yaqub in his cable.

He said that the society supports Jordan and opposes conspiracies against the Kingdom.



Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul discusses prospects for Arab unity with Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Dr. Akram Nashat Ibrahim. Mr. Esboul repeated Jordan's call for Arab solidarity.

Japanese labour union donates \$43,000 to NEF

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Labour Union of the National Telephone Company of Japan (Zendensu) has made a donation of \$43,000 to the Amman-based Near East Foundation (NEF) as a contribution towards the implementation of a programme based on addressing the needs of poor families in the local community.

A NEF statement Tuesday said that Zendensu officials visited its office in Amman and presented a cheque for the donation designed to promote socio-economic development in Jordan.

The programme, NEF said, involves selection of two voluntary societies, training their members in needs assessment and credit programme management, assisting these members in designing their own credit programmes and providing them with funds.

The programme, it added, provides support for self help efforts and assists societies in designing the managing activities based on the real needs of their communities.

The Labour Union which made the donation has 250,000 members who helped raise the fund, according to the NEF press statement.

NEF, a private voluntary agency engaged in development work since 1915, has dedicated itself to the service of the people of the Middle East and Africa. Guided by its mandate, "to help people help themselves," NEF focuses its professional and financial resources on project start-up in the areas of food production, rural and community development, primary health care, and small enterprise promotion.

NEF's teams of specialists emphasise on-the-job training for the transfer of technical and project management skills. NEF cooperates with local agencies and other donor organisations to serve people by matching financial and technical resources with local needs and initiatives.

NEF's past work in Jordan has included technical assistance for the establishment of fish farms, refugee assistance during the Gulf crisis, promotion of primary health care, and youth services. Assisted by regional teams and experience from Egypt and Sudan, NEF has recently turned its attention to the area of small business promotion.

NEF's strategy in the area of small business promotion in Jordan is to work with and through local development agencies involved in this same area to address the needs of low-income people. By engaging in joint activities for employment creation, income-generation, and improved business performance, NEF helps to build the technical and programmatic management skills of the staff of these agencies, and thus strengthens the capacity of the agencies to undertake effective and sustainable economic development programmes.

Jordan reaffirms its determination to establish united Arab position

AMMAN (J.T.) — In line with His Majesty King Hussein's directives the Jordanian government renews its determination to pursue the ongoing efforts aiming to reestablish solidarity among Arab countries and end differences among Arab governments resulting from the Gulf crisis, Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul said Tuesday.

Jordan reaffirms its principled stand which calls for unity of Arab ranks and the need to transcend all differences in order to arrive at solidarity among Arab states, said the minister in a statement after meeting with the secretary general of Arab interior ministers council, Dr. Akram Nashat Ibrahim.

Dr. Ibrahim has been touring Arab states to sound out their views about reviving agencies and institutions affiliated to the Arab League with the purpose of boosting inter-Arab cooperation.

Mr. Esboul told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he exchanged views with Dr. Ibrahim on the outcome of his efforts which, among other things, aim at ensuring security for the Arab World through the council.

The minister said that Dr. Ibrahim informed him of the Arab countries' approval of a council meeting, to be held in Tunis early in December, to discuss matters related to Arab security.

The preliminary meetings would be held to prepare an agenda for the council's session.

Mr. Esboul said he remained optimistic, in light of information provided by Dr. Ibrahim, about the Arab countries' favourable response to a call for reestablishing solidarity among Arab states.

Dr. Ibrahim, the minister added, had positive indications about the determination of other Arab states to create an opportunity climate for a collective Arab action under the Arab League umbrella.

CBJ extends deadline for bids to purchase BCCI branches

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Aug. 25, so that they could study the affairs of the bank and assess its situation prior to finalising their bids," said a senior source.

"Since the CBJ is more in favour of selling the BCCI branches to local organisations rather than a foreign entity, it agreed to the request and set Saturday as the deadline," the sources said.

"The CBJ will consider foreign offers only if it has been established beyond any doubt that local bidders cannot come up with acceptable offers," according to the source.

The CBJ, grappling with a series of scandals and troubles which hit commercial banking in Jordan starting with the Petra Bank in August 1988, has steadily refused to license new commercial banks and follows a policy of trying to limit the number of commercial banks through encouraging mergers.

An auditor's report handed over the bidders for study has clearly established that BCCI Jordan was the "most profitable bank in Jordan," said BCCI regional Manager Fakhr Bilbisi, noting that the bank's net profits for 1990 were JD 1.3 million.

The CBJ took over BCCI Jordan in early July after having already ensured that all its foreign currency accounts were repatriated to Jordan in anticipation of the international troubles which hit the Luxembourg-based bank.

The CBJ move guaranteed the solvency of BCCI Jordan and that the bank's assets adequately cover public deposits with the bank. A rush for withdrawals under limitations set by the CBJ has subsided, and account-holders are being asked to reconcile their balances ahead of the expected change of ownership.

The international links of BCCI Jordan do not pose a problem for the CBJ to exercise its options since all commercial banks in Jordan are governed by Jordanian banking regulations regardless of ownership. The regulations permit the CBJ to take over any bank if it feels that public deposits are threatened.

The Central Bank has set JD 1 million as the minimum bid for the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom. Also included in the prerequisites is a condition that the buyer will protect the interests of the 90 BCCI employees in Jordan and will not carry out any dismissals in the first year after acquisition.

Mr. Bilbisi said he expected the Central Bank to make a final decision immediately after receiving offers from the four bidders Saturday and the BCCI branches to start normal operations in their new form in another week.

Jordan, Iran sign letter of understanding

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran and Jordan on Tuesday signed a letter of understanding for economic and commercial cooperation, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The letter was signed in Tehran during the last round of talks between the visiting Jordanian minister of trade and industry, Ali Abal Ragheb, and Iranian Commerce Minister Abdul-Hussein Vahaji.

At the end of the session, Mr. Vahaji said that delegations from both countries will exchange visits in the future to assess scopes of bilateral cooperation, said IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia.

Mr. Vahaji added that the setting up of exclusive exhibitions, participation of both countries in each other's international fairs as well as establishment of an air route between the two countries were among topics of discussion, IRNA said.

It said the minister noted "Jordan's demand for items including vehicles, fish and tobacco was also reviewed in the talks, adding that Iran would continue to purchase part of its phosphate requirements from Jordan."

Mr. Abul Ragheb met Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Monday evening and be called for further expansion of bilateral economic and political relations.

It said Mr. Velayati underlined the importance of economic ties among Muslim countries and described the new chapter opened in Tehran-Amman bilateral relations as "very important."

Mr. Velayati referred to the presence of a large number of Palestinians in Jordan and said that defending the intifada against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip "was a grave responsibility shouldered by the Muslims." IRNA reported.

It said the foreign minister expressed hope that with an all-out cooperation by Muslim states, "the flag for the liberation of Palestine would remain hoisted."

Survey provides comprehensive data about Gulf expatriates

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The high unemployment rate and an inability to find affordable housing are among the major worries of expatriates who have recently returned from the Gulf states, according to the first comprehensive study conducted on the returnees.

The survey, conducted by the National Centre for Educational Research and Development, was requested by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who felt that a better understanding of the returnees and their problems would aid government agencies in addressing their grievances. The results of the survey, according to Dr. Victor Billeh, president of the centre, provide the first detailed look into the demographics and characteristics of returnees from the Gulf states.

Among the survey's findings:

- Unemployment topped the list of major problems facing returnees with over 50 per cent of families surveyed listing it as their major concern, Dr. Billeh said. Lack of funds, the high cost of living and the housing shortage — problems ranked two through four, respectively — were viewed by Dr. Billeh as being interconnected to the high unemployment rate, currently at about 20 per cent.
- Forty-three per cent of returnees are students. Of that number, 80 per cent enrolled in government schools, 7.5 per cent registered in schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and 12.5 per cent enrolled in private schools.
- Forty-seven per cent of returnee families live in buildings they own while 42 per cent reside in rented housing. Ten per cent live with other family members and friends. The survey also found that 57 per cent of returnees reside in the Amman Governorate, 24 per cent live in the Zarqa Governorate and 13 per cent reside in the Irbid Governorate.
- Forty-four per cent of the returnees are under the age of 15. This is especially significant because it represents the number of people who would use government services without being able to contribute to the economy, Dr. Billeh said.
- Gulf returnees swelled the nation's unemployment ranks by 19,000, of which 3,900 were able to find jobs as of April, Dr. Billeh said.
- Economically, the study found that 33 per cent of families surveyed live below the poverty line, considered to be JD 150 per month per household, Dr. Billeh said.
- More than 3,000 families, with capital ranging from JD 1,000 to JD 500,000, would like to establish some kind of business venture in the Kingdom. Fifty-five per cent of these indicated they were interested in a commercial enterprise, 12 per cent in industry, 15 per cent in agriculture, 15 per cent in service sector project or other types of businesses.
- The majority of people that indicated a willingness to establish (businesses) were talking about small scale projects," said Dr. Billeh, who defined "small scale" as being of an average of JD 10,000.
- However, about 200 families are willing to invest more than JD 50,000, considered a major income-generating, job-creating project, he said.
- Conducting the survey presented some unique problems to the centre because of difficulties in having the estimated 200,000 to 300,000 returnees fill questionnaires, Dr. Billeh said.
- Specifically, problems in geographically locating the returnees made it difficult to conduct the survey "because no one really knows where the returnees are living or are located and because we do not have exact figures on how many people stayed in Amman," Dr. Billeh said. "Some left to the West Bank. Others maybe left to other countries abroad but the bulk of the population stayed in Jordan and we are noticing the increased exodus of these people."
- Assuming that most of the returnees would have children, officials decided to issue the questionnaires to newly enrolled students in schools, community colleges and universities, asking them to provide information about their families.
- "In effect, we really used the schoolchildren as messengers to reach the parents and households to get the information," Dr. Billeh said.
- The response rate, he said, surpassed the centre's expectations as over 90 per cent (42,500) of students returned the questionnaires. The high return rate means the survey covered over 100,000 individuals in 16,500 families, a large enough number to make the survey statistically significant, Dr. Billeh said.
- "The response rate was very high and very satisfactory," he said.
- Still, one of the problems with the survey was that it used students who were officially enrolled in school, meaning that they had been in the country for some time. Because of this, the latest wave of refugees did not fill out questionnaires when they were distributed near the end of April and were not included in the study, which was completed in July, Dr. Billeh said.
- "The returnees included in the study were bere before the crisis developed," he said.
- Information on the recent wave of refugees, he added, is now being gathered as they stream into the country.
- While the survey provided new data on returnees, it is not yet clear how that information will be used to address their problems, Dr. Billeh said. "At least we have a database," he said. "We now know what kind of people we have."
- Interested agencies — national and international, governmental and non-governmental — will be given access to results of the survey, he said.
- It is expected that the bulk of the information, however, will be used by various Jordanian institutions in formulating responses to returnees' problems. For Example, data on the large number of students returning from the Gulf will be provided to the Ministry of Education.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess visits Ministry of Youth

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Sunday visited the Youth Ministry, where she met with Youth Minister Saleh Ershaidat and a number of senior officials. Princess Haya was briefed on the ministry's programmes for the youth and the role of the ministry in developing the youth movement and Jordanian sports. Participants in the meeting, which was also attended by chairman of the Jordanian Equestrian Association Saleh Al Turk, discussed the sport of horseriding and stressed the need for expanding its base to cover the various parts of the Kingdom through the establishment of a special equestrian school and the construction of a horserace field at Hussein Youth City. A meeting was set to discuss these issues in details next Monday at HYC to be attended by Princess Haya, Dr. Ershaidat, Mr. Turk, the director of the Hussein Youth City and representatives for sports movements in Jordan.

Lower House session postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabi Tuesday decided to postpone the House's session, which was scheduled for today, until next Sunday. In the meantime, the House's Committee of Palestine and the Occupied Territories Affairs will hold a meeting next Monday to discuss the House's decision on Gazans living in Jordan with Interior Minister Jawdat Esboul. The Upper House of Parliament Tuesday held a meeting under its speaker, Ahmad Al Lawzi, during which it discussed the provisional revised Income Tax Law for the year 1989. The law was passed to the Upper House after being amended by the Lower House. Following discussion, House's Financial Committee approved the law.

PSD to take part in conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) will take part in the meetings of the Sixth Conference of the Arab Security Forces Public Relations Department directors which will start at Tunisia Sept. 1. The three-day conference will discuss issues related to the role of public relations personnel in bolstering cooperation ties among the Arab public security departments, their role in preventing crimes and duties which require direct contact with the public. The PSD will be represented in the conference by Brigadier General Hisham Ensur, director of the public relations department, who will leave for Tunisia Wednesday.

Tenders committee to be set up

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Tuesday approved setting up a tender committee whose task will be purchasing equipment needed for educational projects which are financed by the World Bank and foreign countries and establishments. The committee, which will be chaired by the ministry's secretary general, will include members directors of several of the ministries concerned departments in addition to a representative from the Ministry of Planning.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION
An exhibition by Ibrahim Abul Rubb at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Parliament members complain of slow government action in dealing with problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Three Parliament members have sent memoranda to government ministers urging them to speed up work on economic development projects and services for areas in their constituencies located in the desert and rural regions of Jordan.

Deputy Mahmoud Hweimil sent a memorandum to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher demanding that electricity be supplied to the population settlements built in the south Jordan Valley region, particularly at Ghor Safi.

In a second memorandum, Mr. Hweimil demanded that the Health Ministry meet the Ghor Safi hospital's needs of specialists and increase to 35 the number of its beds because of growing demands for medical treatment. He also requested that the Health Ministry build a residential quarter for the nurses adjacent to the hospital.

Deputy Nayef Al Hadid sent a memorandum to the Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Srouh demanding that agricultural roads that serve desert regions east of Amman be asphalted.

In another memorandum sent to Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar, Mr. Hadid demanded that the ministry deal with the water problems in the areas of southern Amman. He said that the Water Authority should pay back to the local residents a sum of JD 30 million, which was overpaid to the company.

The deputy said that water should be supplied to stock breeders free of charge and the tariff charges by water trucks be unified and endorsed by the government.

Deputy Ahmad Kafawin sent memoranda to Prime Minister

Traffic accidents claim 19 lives


AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 19 people were killed and 245 others injured in 478 road accidents that occurred in Jordan between Aug. 17 and Aug. 24, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) Tuesday.

Out of the total number of accidents, 408 occurred in urban and residential roads, causing the deaths of 13 persons and the injury of 180 others, according to the statement.

70 accidents occurred on the highways, killing six persons and injuring 65 others, the statement said.

This past week's total represented an increase of 14 deaths over the previous week's while the number of injured people increased by 46, according to the statement.

A total of 309 accidents which caused the death of eight persons and the injury of 104 others occurred in Amman followed by Zarqa and Irbid.



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From frying pan to the fire?

THERE IS a growing fear that the communist dictatorship in the Soviet Union is being fast replaced by another type of dictatorship masterminded by no other than Russian leader Boris Yeltsin. Mr. Yeltsin's style of governing and his mode of taking decisions on behalf of not only his republic but also the rest of the union suggest that a new kind of tyranny is in the making. To begin with, he has already served notice on the rest of the republics that form the Soviet Union that he will seek rectification of the borders of the Russian Federation with the rest of the smaller republics in favour of course of his own republic. Then he started making noises to the effect that his government insists on sharing control over Soviet nuclear weapons with the central government in Moscow while the rest of the Soviet republics would continue to be excluded from any such form of control. In between such bold decisions, Mr. Yeltsin continues to issue one edict after the other purporting to dictate the shape and future of the USSR. In this vein he has hastened to recognise the breakaway Baltic republics in an arbitrary manner and without consulting neither the central government nor his neighbouring republics. Concurrently with such abusive behaviour, he ordered not only the dismantling of the Communist Party, which, in spite of everything, is an important part of Soviet history, but also its ridicule and demeaning. From the looks of things, Mr. Yeltsin is fast becoming a new czar and mother Russia is rapidly restoring its historic stature and power at the expense of course of the rest of the peoples and ethnic minorities. No wonder there are already voices being heard calling for giving Russia the Soviet Union's permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council. What should bother the world most is the manner all such dramatic changes are being conducted and implemented. What is at stake is the fate of democracy in the Soviet Union and the course of reformation in it since it was perestroika and glasnost reformist perspectives that ushered in the eventual changes in the country and gave Mr. Yeltsin, President Mikhail Gorbachev and like-minded people there the pretext and the go to implement their grand schemes for their country.

The very concept that should be applied at this stage in Soviet history is that whatever changes Soviet leaders have in mind have to be endorsed by the Soviet people at large. After all it is their day-to-day lives that are at stake, and they have every right to demand that they be consulted. In this vein, the best option for the Soviet leadership today is to conduct open and fair referendum among the Soviet people to determine the shape and nature of the future course of their country. Otherwise, the very principle of democracy we all cherish and are eager to see taking strong roots in the erstwhile communist giant will lose its meaning and value.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Tuesday launched a fierce attack on the Egyptian leadership and its media that have been attacking Jordan following the publication of the White Paper that shed light on Jordan's stand and exposed the underhand dealings of the Egyptian president during the Gulf crisis. The paper said that President Hosni Mubarak had given orders to the press in Cairo to unleash a propaganda campaign against His Majesty King Hussein because he had published the truth about developments before and during the Gulf crisis. The White Paper only explains the Jordanian national stand in support of right and justice, unlike the Egyptian media which gave coverage to and justification for the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and its civilian population, said Al Ra'i. It seems that the publication of the Jordanian White Paper had caused President Mubarak to be in total confusion and made him lose his mind and balance ordering the media to unleash the hostile campaign on King Hussein, accusing Jordan of concocting a plot with Iraq and Yemen against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the paper continued. The White Paper and King Hussein's documented letters to President Saddam Hussein have revealed the truth about the whole situation, and that was something that shook Mr. Mubarak who was personally responsible for drumming up the worldwide information campaign against Iraq, paving the ground for the aggression, the daily added. What is more disturbing for Mr. Mubarak is the fact that his involvement in the plot against Iraq has won him nothing except shame in front of the Arab Nation as his troops are now pulling out from Kuwait where he had hoped to cash in on the bounty but was totally disillusioned with the results, Al Ra'i added. It said that the White Paper has refuted Egypt's lies that a plot had been concocted against Kuwait by Jordan, Yemen and Iraq. But, the daily said, the Jordanian White Paper has also exposed those who proved to be traitors to their nation and who deserve condemnation and curse.

A columnist for Al Ra'i daily voiced his dismay at the government's failure so far to deal promptly and efficiently with the question of harassment of Aqaba-bound ships carrying goods to Jordan. Tareq Masarweh said that Jordanians do not expect the government to go to the U.N. Security Council, the International Court of Justice or elsewhere to seek justice and compensation for the country's huge economic losses because of the embargo imposed on Jordan's trade. The writer said that the government seems to prefer to play down this matter so as not to provoke the Americans who continue to harass shipping and harm the national interests. He said that the harassment to Jordan's trade was, in practice, a form of trade embargo imposed on Jordan contemplating the embargo imposed on the Kingdom by Saudi Arabia which continues to block Jordan's overland trade and has cut off its oil supplies to Jordan. The American harassment of Jordan's trade is also backed by Kuwait's continued eviction of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates burdening Jordan with new responsibilities, the paper added. It said that these American-orchestrated actions were designed as a form of pressure on the Kingdom not because it has occupied Kuwait, but because it calls for an end to the embargo on Iraq and a halt to the process of starving the innocent civilian population.

Economic Forum

The economics of political debacle

THE title above refers to the peculiar state of the Soviet Union but it could be changed into "the politics of economic debacle" and maintain the same notion. What is happening now in the Soviet "Union" is a political collapse crowning an economic fiasco.

In a series of articles on the Soviet Union I published in Al Dussour newspaper shortly after the eruption of the Gulf crisis last year, the last article (Nov. 11, 1990) was concluded literally by the following sentence: "I, for one, am convinced that the Soviet Union will disintegrate in the course of one year from now." To arrive at such a conclusion, we did not have to build an economic model; it was a value judgement based on two objective developments which were crystal clear at the time.

First, the communist regimes in Eastern Europe were crumbling one after another but Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev was standing handfolded and did not move a muscle. That was most odd because the states which were crumbling were the allies of the Soviet Union. The communist parties were being dismembered there but Mr. Gorbachev did not act to support them. That was very strange as well because, to a communist, the cause of communism is one cause irrespective of time and place. For Mr. Gorbachev to tolerate the lethal blows which were being dealt to comrades, communist parties and communist regimes in Eastern Europe meant not only that the communist case was greatly enfeebled or was not his cause at all but also that he would tolerate a similar situation in the Soviet Union if it ever developed there.

Second, the perestroika was handled in a way that triggered great premature expectations among the masses and awakened national sentiments. When it failed to deliver, the rampant new forces struck the very fabric which unified so far the peoples of the Union, namely the communism dream and its instrument, the Communist Party. This second point needs little elaboration.

Political reform can be achieved very quickly and can even be decreed overnight. The ruler issues the decree and all sorts of political changes follow: Freedom of expression, parties, free press, elections, elected parliaments and parliamentary governments. In the course of one year, everything can be put in place.

But economic reform is a totally different issue. It may very well start with a decree but it takes many years to come to fruition. If most, not to say all, things go right, economic reform will take a long time to be completed. Successful economic reform necessitates, among other things, a change in deep-rooted patterns of saving, consumption, investment and production. And the change has to properly impact and motivate thousands or millions of production units scattered throughout the economy, because it is their decisions, activities and behaviour which determine the final picture of the economy and its performance. In our estimation it takes 10 to 20 years to accomplish a successful economic reform.

Perestroika was presented to the peoples of the Soviet Union in a way that suggested it would work soon. At least, they were not told it might take a long time to do that. And it did not seem

that the Soviet economists and politicians themselves thought that economic reform was a long-term process. Even Boris Yeltsin and his "liberal" economic advisers have been talking about 500 days! The Soviet peoples thought that the perestroika meant days! The Soviet peoples thought that the perestroika meant more and better TV and video sets, fridges, cars and all those luxury goods they were hitherto deprived of. Instead, they woke up four years after the start of the perestroika to find that it did not only fail to deliver these products but it even robbed them of the bread and butter which they had. Now, most republics of the Soviet Union will want to try their own hands at taking care of their economic interests, or rather economic problems, after finding that the Union has nothing to offer them.

Right now the Soviet Union has an alarmingly broken economy. What awaits it and its republics from now on, and for many years to come, is internal strife and economic chaos and possibly civil war. Prices rising now at 60-100 per cent will give way to hyperinflation. Unemployment will start to spread and rise as state enterprises are reformed or closed. The production machine is already stalled and this will add to the severity of inflation and unemployment and cause nationwide shortages.

Amidst this maze, it will be interesting to see what the republics will do with their political independence as the Soviet Union itself turns into a relic. Most probably, it will be a very dramatic scene as the Soviet Union transits from what the West views as Stalinism to Yeltsinism and Bushism, through the miserable and very short-lived era of Gorbachevism.

Yeltsin advances at Gorbachev's expense after years of rivalry

By Susan Cornwell
Reuter

MOSCOW — For Boris Yeltsin, it must be sweet revenge.

Three years ago, when Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's powers were at their height, Mr. Yeltsin stood in disgrace before the 19th Soviet Communist Party conference and begged in vain for political rehabilitation "while I am still alive."

In the past three days Mr. Yeltsin, now president of the Russian Federation, has sidelined and humiliated Mr. Gorbachev at the Soviet leader's weakest moment, and left their mutual right-wing enemies running, as Mr. Yeltsin said, like "cockroaches in a jar."

The Communist Party has collapsed and the Soviet Union is on the verge of collapsing. In the events leading to chaos, a large role was played by the tormented relationship and personal rivalry between two reformers — Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin.

For nearly four years, ever since Mr. Yeltsin proved to be the first crack in the outwardly monolithic Gorbachev leadership, the two men have battled each other over the pace of reform, never reaching much more than a temporary, uneasy truce.

Both men wanted economic and political change, but Mr. Yeltsin was a passionate radical beside whom Mr. Gorbachev appeared a cautious centrist.

Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin wrote in his autobiography in 1990, was "my perpetual opponent, the lover of half-measures and half-steps."

Mr. Yeltsin accused Mr. Gorbachev of being detached from the harsh realities of Soviet life, saying almost from the start that his perestroika policies were doing little to improve the lives of average Soviet citizens.

Mr. Gorbachev considered Mr. Yeltsin a man of all-consuming ambition, unable to proceed in a rational, steady manner.

"Comrade Yeltsin put his personal ambitions before the interests of the party," Mr. Gorbachev declared in November 1987.

In the heady early days of perestroika they were allies. Soon after becoming Soviet leader in March 1985, Mr. Gorbachev plucked Mr. Yeltsin from provincial obscurity in Sverdlovsk to clean up the corrupt Moscow party organisation.

But Mr. Gorbachev unceremoniously dumped Mr. Yeltsin from the Moscow party job in November 1987 and from the politburo in February 1988 after

In June this year, Mr. Yeltsin made his position unassailable by winning a direct election to the Russian presidency, becoming Russia's first freely-elected leader.

After last week's abortive coup, instead of rushing to the Kremlin shouting Mr. Gorbachev's name, Muscovites converged on the Russian parliament shouting "Yeltsin, Yeltsin."



Mr. Yeltsin charged reforms were moving too slowly.

Mr. Yeltsin was denounced and humiliated at a Moscow party meeting at which no one defended him and Mr. Gorbachev said he was a man who panicked when the time came to back words with deeds.

Afterwards Mr. Gorbachev told people "he was not going to let me back into politics," Mr. Yeltsin said in his book.

Things turned out differently. In March 1989, Mr. Yeltsin won a seat in the new Soviet parliament created as part of Mr. Gorbachev's reforms.

In front of the Soviet leader and the Russian parliament, Mr. Yeltsin temporarily banned the Russian Communist Party. He annexed the state communications system and commandeered the archives of the Communist Party and KGB security police.

Has Mr. Yeltsin had the last laugh? Not everyone is sure. "I fear in a few years' time the people now backing Mr. Yeltsin will be shouting 'take Yeltsin to the gallows' because he and his team are not professionals and will not be able to act," said one Muscovite, physics teacher Vladimir Trushin.

Baltics near independence, diplomatic recognition beckons

By Nigel Stephenson
Reuter

VILNIUS, Soviet Union — The Baltic republics took further strides towards independence on Monday, putting customs officials on borders and issuing visas as foreign countries queued up to establish diplomatic links.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev also indicated he would not stand in the way of rapid secession.

But the process he envisaged was unlikely to catch up with the accelerating pace of *de facto* separation being set by the Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Since the failure of a communist-led coup in Moscow last week, all three have been pushing out the security forces and communists who were the instruments of Soviet power.

"We are free. It is a formal question only," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters on Sunday.

On Monday Lithuanian customs officers joined Soviet officials at the Polish border, the port

at Klaipeda and the airport in the capital, Vilnius, a parliamentary spokesman said.

But Soviet border guards refused to let Lithuanian guards join them anywhere except in Klaipeda, he added.

Lithuania said the borders would be run jointly until appropriate agreements were signed with the Soviet government.

It began to issue its own visas and said it expected to give all its citizens passports within six months. Lithuanians will not need exit visas to leave.

A Latvian official in Stockholm said his republic had reached an agreement with local military commanders on visas, and with the Ministry of Defence in Moscow on border control.

He said emergency visas could be ready later on Monday.

France said it was sending envoys to all the Baltic republics on Monday to make contacts ahead of formal diplomatic recognition.

It has said it is ready to recognise the independence of the republics but wants to do so together with other European

Community countries, due to discuss the matter on Tuesday.

Iceland became the first Western country to establish diplomatic ties with the three republics. It recognised Estonia and Latvia last week and Lithuania last February.

Denmark was set to become the first Western country to put an ambassador in a Baltic republic. Its representative, Otto Borch, was due in the Latvian capital Riga on Monday.

Mr. Gorbachev told the Soviet parliament negotiations with any republics who wanted to leave the union should start as soon as a new union treaty was signed.

He said republics who did not sign the treaty "should be given the right of independent choice."

His speech made no reference to any conditions or to the constitution, which he has cited in the past in rejecting the independence declarations of the Baltic republics.

The constitution, not recognised by the three, prescribes a convoluted five-year process for any of the 15 Soviet republics to secede.

Communist Party collapses after decades as Soviet 'conscience'

By Ralph Boulton
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, effectively smashed in one evening by President Mikhail Gorbachev, held the Soviet Union in its grip through seven decades of terror and repression.

With last week's failed coup died the last hopes it could change its Bolshevik traditions. On Saturday, an embattled and disillusioned Gorbachev quit as party chief and issued dramatic decrees hastening its demise.

Lenin described the party he founded as the "wisdom, the honour, the conscience of our epoch" — an epithet treasured by his successors. That conscience was never greatly troubled by blood shed in its name in the most brutal purges of Stalin.

The Communist Party was the Soviet Union.

It created the country, seizing power in Russia in 1917 and absorbing other republics from the old tsarist empire. A ruthless "red terror" swept away opponents and even allies.

Over decades, it shaped the country's government, industry, culture and thinking. The security police, "sword and shield of the party," answered only to its authority — as did the army and, until Gorbachev's perestroika, the media.

There was no area of life not invaded and dominated by the powerful party cells.

Mr. Gorbachev's decrees on Saturday night banned the cells from the army and KGB and handed all party property over to state administration. The party leadership, he said, had discredited itself by association with last Monday's coup.

"I do not consider it possible for me to continue to perform the functions of general secretary and I surrender those powers," he declared.

Mr. Gorbachev, who became general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in 1985 with the mission, of reforming it, had abandoned hope.

After the coup failed on



Mikhail Gorbachev

Wednesday, the party collapsed in a way no one could have believed possible.

Outlying republics rushed to ban the discredited organisation, the main Moscow headquarters was sealed, party records impounded by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and its sacred journal, the daily newspaper Pravda, was banned.

Less than two years ago, there were 19 million party members. A month ago, the figure was down to 15 million. More and more membership cards are being ditched all the time.

The old self-acclaiming cries of "glory to the CPSU" that rang out at May day celebrations have turned to shouts of "shame to the party" and calls to "put the communists on trial."

Statues of Lenin, once in every Soviet city, began toppling in rebel republics two years ago. But this week the Russian heartland itself has witnessed scenes of statues being boisted away by cranes.

"The ... party has taken an historic path unparalleled by any other political party in the world," the first paragraph of the official history of the CPSU says. "This is the path of heroic struggle, victory of the working class, socialism, communism."

The reality was always rather different. Proclaiming the interests of the working classes and ensuring a high proportion of workers in its official bodies, the party built up a system of elabo-

rate privileges for a ruling "patronage." Limousines, villas, apartments and good food all fell to the loyal.

Born in 1903 in conspiracy, the Bolshevik party never fully threw off its mantle of secrecy, even in the perestroika era. Its leaders' treachery came as a bitter blow to Mr. Gorbachev.

Party membership was essential to advancement in all areas of life. A good writer who would not bow to the party's view of truth or history languished in obscurity, or risked all to publish abroad.

The rule, transplanted to the ruling communist parties of Eastern Europe after World War II, was spelt out in an East German song sung with gusto at official functions:

"The party, the party, is always right."

The Soviet model was replicated throughout Eastern Europe. Sister-parties of the CPSU collapsed one after the other in 1989, but the mother-party, the party of Lenin, was intact.

Gradually, Russians became aware of the sheer scale of purges in the party, especially during the 1930s. Of the 129 members of the policy-making central committee elected by the 1934 17th congress, known as the "congress of victors," 98 — or 70 per cent — were shot by the end of the decade.

The party killed its brightest, most dedicated leaders from Leon Trotsky to Nikolai Bukharin. Foreign communists, marshaled under the communist international at Moscow's hotel Lux, also faced firing squads.

Principles derived from German philosopher Karl Marx were seen as immutable. All, or almost all, property was in state hands. Private property was viewed with extreme suspicion.

Resistance to moves toward a market economy and political pluralism had been clear long before the party formally yielded its constitutional monopoly on power a year ago. The old guard were ready to fight to the last.

Lazar Kaganovich, at 97 the last of Stalin's allies, was spared the collapse of the party he loved. He died in early July in Moscow. "People say I live a lonely life," he said in an interview just before his death. "But a communist is never alone."

LETTERS

American contribution

Dear Editor,

WITH REFERENCE to the article published in Jordan Times on Aug. 24 concerning the establishment of a mosaic school in Madaba, I would like to add that the above-mentioned project the U.S. government granted to the Jordanian government \$200,000 for:

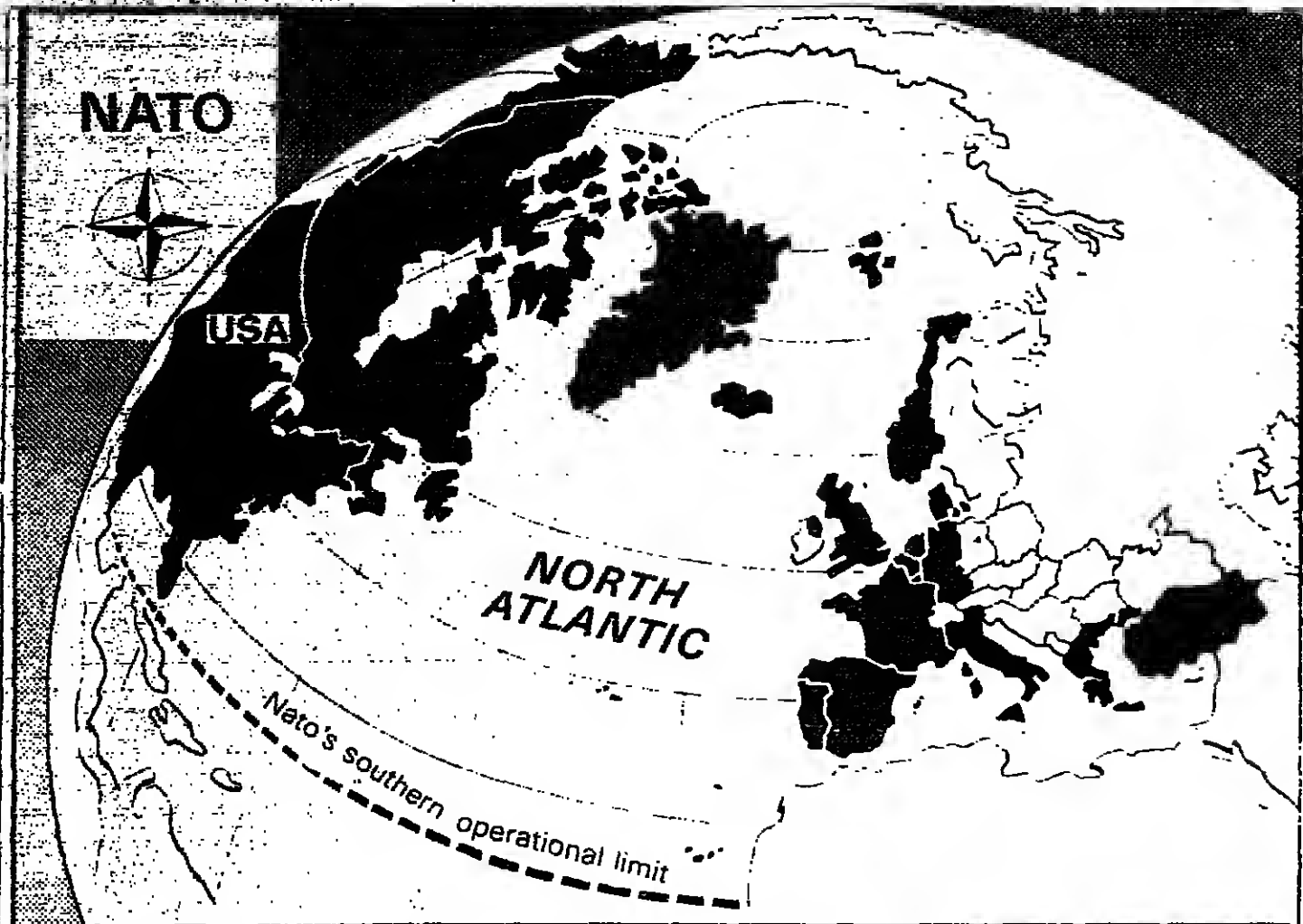
- Covering and restoring of the archaeological area near the buildings where the school will be established; and
- Building of a new roof for the Church of Apostles in Madaba.

I would be very grateful if the Jordan Times can mention the contribution of the U.S. government for the concerned project.

Yours sincerely,

Giovanni Benvenuti,
The Italian Embassy,
Amman.

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Crumbling Soviet military poses questions for NATO

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO, which has faced a monolithic Soviet threat for more than 40 years, is scrambling to work out what will happen to Europe's biggest military power now it is visibly falling apart.

Soviet armed forces are set for a major restructuring, with more authority taken by the republics, the probable loss of strategic assets and a complete purge of hardliners — reaping huge benefits for the West, officials and analysts say.

The likely result is that Soviet forces will be virtually incapable of launching a massed attack on another country and Western defence cuts planned at the end of the cold war will continue apace. But it may not all be good news.

"Even if the beast that we knew for so long disappears, who will have control of the nuclear weapons? Will they cut and reorganise their defences radically and how much will that cost? Can they afford it?" asked one NATO official.

"What is there fighting between republics, or the hardliners in the armed forces don't go along with it? What happens to arms control if there's no central authority?"

Despite the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the 16-nation Western alliance has repeatedly said it would still be needed to counterbalance Soviet might and to insure against instability.

That, according to NATO officials, has been proved by the shattering events of the last week.

"No one will seriously suggest that this means NATO should break up," said one alliance diplomat. "There are still benefits from coordinating the West's defences and political attitudes — and we can't know what will happen next."

But that still leaves a lot of questions about Western security policy if the Soviet Union no longer exists.

Paul Beaver of the authoritative Jane's Defence Weekly believes the conscript-based Soviet military will turn into a two-tier system, with smaller, more professional forces.

The republics, led by the huge Russian Federation, will take charge of defence of their own territory — the first tier — while perhaps agreeing to pool some resources for defence of the union as the second tier.

The large Soviet nuclear arsenal is likely to be based in Russia and remain under some form of central control, NATO officials say.

some nuclear weapons had already been withdrawn from the more restive republics last year.

"It could end up resembling NATO in a way," said Mr. Beaver. "You have national defence systems in the republics and a pooling of resources for the bigger picture. They will still have some common security interests."

But NATO officials cautioned this analogy may be too simple, since it was not clear how republics would develop relations between themselves or who would have control of union forces.

The restructuring of the Soviet forces will take years and cost a great deal of money, which they just don't have," said one NATO military official, who asked not to be identified.

If republics like the Baltics and the Ukraine win full independence, as now seems likely, the Soviet armed forces will lose strategically vital bases, ports and territory.

The new defence minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, has promised 80 per cent of the military command would be replaced by younger men. This means more junior officers will have to tackle the immense problems of restructuring.

"Purely on the level of military capability, at least in the short term, the Soviet forces will be in complete turmoil and unable to present a threat to anyone outside the country," said another NATO diplomat. "We should take full advantage."

British Prime Minister John Major indicated exactly that at the weekend, when he said Western aid could come to the Soviet Union only if defence spending were cut drastically.

"There will be a great deal more pressure from the West while there is this fantastic opportunity," said Mr. Beaver.

There is also the prospect that Soviet forces remaining in Moscow's former satellites could be withdrawn faster.

NATO member Germany said on Monday it would like to see more than 250,000 Soviet troops remaining in eastern Germany withdrawn earlier than the agreed deadline of 1994.

The alliance may also have to revise its new strategy, which still identifies the Soviet Union as the chief risk to Western security and had been based on hopes some central authority would remain as reforms progressed.

"It may be better than we hoped, it may be worse," said one official. "Once the dust settles a bit, we may have to write in some more contingency plans."

Demise of Soviet Communist Party completes East bloc landslide

By Merial Beattie
Reuter

VIENNA — The demise of the Soviet Communist Party completes a landslide that swept communists from power across Eastern Europe and looks set to isolate those communist parties which still wield political influence.

Public jubilation, anti-communist rallies and the tearing down of communist statues across the Soviet Union recalled similar scenes throughout Eastern Europe since 1989 when communist parties were forced to give up power or change their names and leaders.

"Although communist parties or their successors still exist throughout Eastern Europe, only in Bulgaria, Albania and the Yugoslav republic of Serbia, they continue to be the dominant political force."

According to Western politicians and analysts, the collapse of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union looks set to isolate these remaining communist strongholds still further.

"They will increase their efforts to run away from their past and from themselves," Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock told Reuters.

"They will change their names and dump burdensome ideology in order to participate in multi-party democracy — but they will only be partially successful."

Throughout their four-decade rule, communist parties throughout the region implemented their rule through cells in every major enterprise and institution.

Many of these have still not been disbanded, even in countries where the communist parties themselves have lost all influence.

"The drawback of the peaceful revolutions," is that strong

cadres of the former regimes survived in the administrative bodies, armies and other social institutions," Mr. Mock said.

In Hungary, the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party was the first Communist Party in Eastern Europe to abandon its claim to a "leading role" and open the way to multi-party politics.

But neither its initiation of democratic reform nor its change of name to socialist was enough to remove the stigma of its past. The party won only 33 out of 386 seats in general elections in spring 1990, losing to dissident-led opposition.

In Czechoslovakia, the ruling Communist Party was forced to give up power in the 1989 "velvet revolution" which replaced it with a government of popular dissidents and technocrats in the Civic Forum alliance.

However in general elections last year the communists polled a surprisingly high 13 per cent, and when the ruling Civic Forum split into two wings in February, the communists were left as the largest single party in parliament, though with little real influence.

In Poland, the Polish United Workers' (communist) Party officially dissolved itself in January 1990 but under a deal forged with Solidarity they kept a fixed quota of 65 per cent of 460 seats in the Sejm (lower house of parliament).

A faction of the communists' two million-strong membership regrouped in the leftist social democracy of the Polish republic, which abandoned orthodox Marxism.

In Romania, the Communist Party was officially disbanded during the December 1989 revolution which toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. But many leaders of the ruling National Salvation Front are former communists and President Ion Iliescu, once a senior official in Ceausescu's regime has never renounced communist ideology.

In Bulgaria, once Moscow's staunchest ally, the Communist Party ousted its leader Todor Zhivkov, renamed itself socialist and won a sweeping victory over inexperienced dissident-led opposition in the June elections. Its present leader, Mr. Zhivkov's former ideology chief Alexander Lilov, claims his party has more than half a million members.

Although opinion polls indicate the socialists have lost popularity, diplomats say infighting in the main opposition alliance is likely to keep the socialists in power.

In Albania, the Communist Party of Labour was forced to give up its monopoly on power after unprecedented public unrest. But it won a sweeping victory over fledgling opposition in the country's first multiparty elections in March after four decades of one-party rule.

At a congress two months ago the party changed its name to socialist and purged a number of hardliners from its ranks.

But the congress also showed signs of a split between supporters of late Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha and liberals keen to bring market values to Europe's poorest economy.

In Yugoslavia, the breakaway republics of Slovenia and Croatia both elected non-communist governments in April. But Serbia, the dominant republic, remains staunchly communist under the presidency of Slobodan Milosevic and wields dominant influence over the federal army.

Western diplomats said the collapse of the Soviet Communist Party might further isolate Serbia from the rest of Eastern Europe but was unlikely to dent the popularity of Mr. Milosevic.

Tradition-loving Britain edges nearer to electoral revolution

By Anne Senior
Reuter

LONDON — For the first time in its history, Britain's "first-past-the-post" system of electing members of parliament is under threat from opponents who argue against the "mother of parliaments."

And thousands are clamouring for the overthrow of a centuries-old electoral system that gave Britain such political giants as Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher.

They want proportional representation (PR) as used in many other European states instead of the present "winner-takes-all" system.

PR would allocate seats according to a party's overall votes in an election rather than returning the candidate who polled the highest number of votes in a constituency to parliament and sending all the losers home.

Spearsheading the challenge are the minority Liberal Democrats, led by 50-year-old former marine commander Paddy Ashdown, who are hoping they can beat the odds and change the face of British politics.

In broadly the same camp is Charter 88, a vociferous pressure group which has marshalled a membership of more than 20,000 people to campaign for urgent electoral reform and a written constitution to enshrine citizens' rights.

It has been a very British rebellion so far, of mostly polite debate and lobbying in the media, but PR campaigners have fulfilled their first objective of making Britons look with doubt at their parliamentary heritage.

The Economist magazine recently devoted two leader articles in succession to assailing the mother of parliaments, so-called because it was once a model for newly democratising countries.

"The current first-past-the-post system is undemocratic. On that ground alone it needs to be replaced," it said.

Winner-takes-all elections date back to medieval times when kings first summoned subjects to parliaments.

Former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher swears by them, saying they have served Britain well for centuries by providing strong, decisive government. She argues that proportional representation would lead to weak coalitions liable to collapse and unable to respond quickly to a crisis.

First-past-the-post elections have formed the basis of two-party politics in Britain, favouring dominant parties at the expense of smaller groups such as the Greens who may gain plenty of votes in a general election but rarely manage to win a seat.

Charter 88 spokesman Paul Farthing said this was a dangerous form of democracy which may even produce "elective dictatorships" by giving governments a greater proportion of parliamentary seats than their share of the electorate.

PR supporters cite the fact that Mrs. Thatcher's governments of the 1980s enjoyed a clear parliamentary majority, which they used to push through controversial policies.

With another election looming, political analysts say Britain is closer than ever before to electoral reform and give two scenarios for change.

This is the short-term possibility. — The next election, due within the year, ends in a virtual tie between the Conservative Party led by Mrs. Thatcher's successor, Prime Minister John Major, and the left-wing Labour Party under leader Neil Kinnock.

— The Liberal Democrats hold the balance of power in the "hung parliament" and demand proportional representation as a condition for supporting the party holding most seats.

It may look a long shot, but Britain's bookmakers are already taking bets on electoral reform and some have quoted odds of "evens" on there being a form of PR within 10 years.

Recent opinion polls show the Conservative government and the Labour opposition are running a close contest, and indicate growing support for dumping the first-past-the-post principle.

The second scenario is longer-term. — The next election is another resounding defeat for Labour and gives the Conservatives a fourth consecutive term.

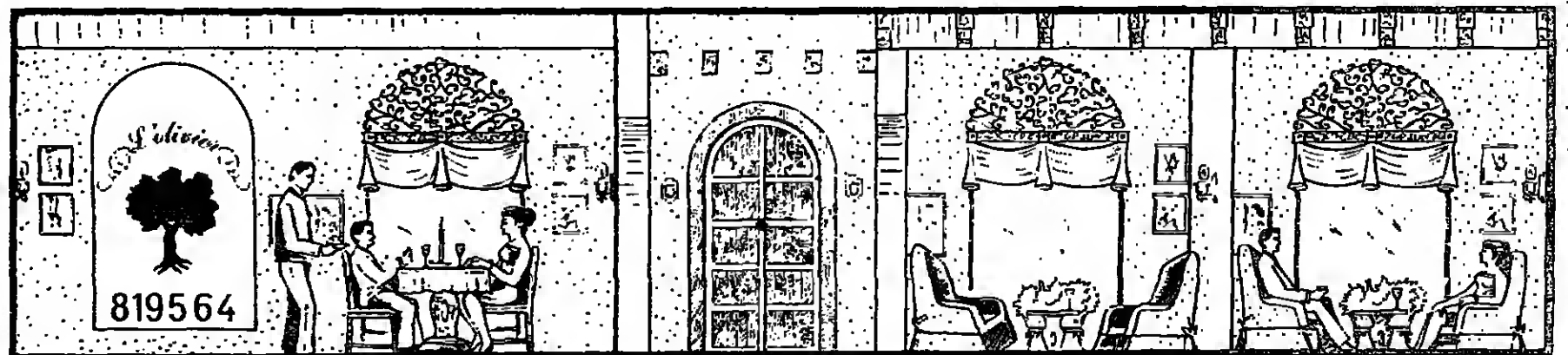
Labour's Kinnock is replaced by someone sympathetic to electoral reform. Labour decides championing PR is the only way to win the votes needed to unseat the Conservatives next time around. Labour wins that election and has to follow through on its manifesto pledge.

Although analysts are divided about the likelihood of PR being introduced, they agree the change would be a revolution in British politics and would mean a shift to consensus government.

"It would change the political landscape, increase the strength of the fringe parties, and mean coalition government," said Ivor Crewe, professor of government at Essex University.

He said it would be the most significant electoral change in Britain since mass suffrage was introduced around 150 years ago.

As Europe integrates further, Britain will come under increasing pressure to fall into line with other countries which have forms of proportional representation, said Alan Deattie, lecturer in political science at the London School of Economics.



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Johnson wins men's 200, Krabbe ends Ottey winning streak in 100

TOKYO (AP) — America's miracle man, Michael Johnson, ran a miraculous race, and Germany's golden girl, Katrin Krabbe, won a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships Tuesday.

Johnson, the world's unparalleled long sprinter, took the men's 200-metre dash in a performance that was reminiscent of the great Jesse Owens.

Although his winning time was 20.01, breaking the championship record but far off the world record of 19.72 held by Italy's Pietro Mennea, Johnson was running in at 3.4 metres per second headwind.

Never has anyone run so fast with such a strong headwind, and Johnson's margin of victory — 33 of a second, or more than three metres, over runner-up Frank Fredericks of Namibia — was the widest in an Olympic or World Championship final since Owens won the gold at the Berlin Games.

"If not for the wind, I would have broken the world record," Johnson said after his 25th consecutive victory over two years in the 200. "It would have been 19.6."

"When I was coming down the straightaway, I knew nobody was going to beat me and I was going to be the world champion. So, I started going for the world record."

"But when I finished and looked at the clock, I knew it was the wind (that prevented a record time). I knew there must have been a strong wind because I put more effort into it that."

Last year, Johnson became the first sprinter to be ranked No. 1 in the world in the 200 and the 400 in the same season. He had a 14-1 record in the 200, winning

his last 14, and he was 6-0 in the 400.

This season, he is 11-0 in the 200 and is undefeated in the 400. In both events, he ran the fastest times in the world last year and owns the fastest times in the world this year.

"I'm the best in the world," he said. "Nobody can beat me." Jamaica's Merlene Ottey must have thought the same thing coming into the women's 100 metres. She had won 56 straight finals since finishing third in the 1987 World Championships.

But the tall, blonde Krabbe, whose looks have been compared to those of the late Grace Kelly and has done some modeling, ended Ottey's four-year winning streak.

Bursting out of the blocks with lightning quickness, Krabbe seized the lead immediately and held on to win in 10.99, becoming the first German to win a world athletics gold medal while representing her unified country.

Ottey, the fourth-place finisher in 1983 and third in 1987, had to settle for another bronze medal, as Gwen Torrence of the United States overtook her just before the finish line.

Krabbe, the 1990 European champion in the 100 and 200, let out a loud scream when she realised she was the winner.

"I expected a good time, but not necessarily a gold medal," Krabbe, 21, said. "I was concentrating so much ... that I did not know I had won the gold medal until I saw the scoreboard."

"It was a great change for me to finish ahead of Merlene."

It was a great change for anyone to finish ahead of Ottey, who had dominated both the 100 and 200 in recent years. In the 200,



Katrin Krabbe

she has a 36-race winning string, dating back to May 1989.

But she keeps coming up short in the big races.

In World Championship 200s, she was second in 1983 and third in 1987. In Olympic 200s, she was third in 1980 and 1984 and fourth in 1988, and in Olympic 100s, she was third in '84 and scratched from the '88 semifinals.

This time, a poor start and a poor finish proved her undoing. "I came here to win the gold and I got the bronze," the disappointed Ottey said. "I had a bad start, then I tightened up at the end and Gwen came by."

"My start has never been good. Katrin got out there and I started to run her race instead of mine."

Torrence was timed in 11.03 and Ottey in 11.06.

Krabbe has had difficulty adjusting to the reunification of her country. Formerly east Germany's golden girl, she enjoyed and acknowledged the system that developed her. While she is pampered in much the same way now, anxieties have crept in.

"In June, they said they would

blow up the sports shop she owns in Neubrandenburg," Jos Hermens, her agent, said. "I understand a few million people don't have jobs and they are concerned. But she can't be blamed for that."

Hermens said Krabbe had temporarily given up her modeling career.

"Maybe in three or four years, she will be able to do it again," he said. "She doesn't want to be a model now. She wants to be a runner."

Krabbe was one of three German gold medalists Tuesday. The others were Lars Riedel in the men's discus with a throw of 217 feet, 2 inches, and Sabine Braun in the Heptathlon with 6,672 points.

In the other final events, Billy Konchallah of Kenya won his second straight world title in the men's 800 metres in 1:43.99, Samuel Matete became Zambia's first gold medalist in a major championship, taking the men's 400-metre intermediate hurdles in 47.64, and France's Marie-Josée Percec, the European Champion, won the women's 400 in 49.13, a national record.

Germany's Grit Breuer set a world junior record in the women's 400 in finishing second in 49.42.

In the men's hurdles, the U.S. team failed to win a medal, the first time that has happened in either the World Championships or Olympics since 1968, except for 1980, when it boycotted the Moscow games.

With four days remaining in the championships, the Soviet led in medals with 14, followed by the United States with 9 and Germany with 7. The Soviets and United States each had four golds, the Germans three.



QUEEN NOOR, ALI REACH DOUBLES FINAL: Her Majesty Queen Noor and Ali Rezaei reached the final of the mixed doubles tournament, organized by the Jordan Tennis Federation, after their Tuesday's win over Laith Azzouni and Mayyada Abu Jaber 6-4, 6-3 in a match held at Al Hussein Youth City courts. Queen Noor and Ali will today play against Imad Abu Hamda and Mai Hammad in the final match which will start at 5 p.m. Abu Hamda and Hammad defeated Abdullah Khalil and Yasmin Abu Jaber 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals. Marwan Hammad and Khalid Nafaa will meet in the under 13 singles finals today at 4 p.m. In the semifinals, Hammad beat Tharwat Al Qaisi 2-6 and Nafaa defeated Ahmad Al Haidi 2-6.

Agassi becomes 1st day casualty at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget flamboyant and fancy, and by the way, Andre Agassi as well, in the U.S. Open. Stuck instead with staid and sturdy, the Pete Sampras basic white look.

Sampras and Agassi, contrasting finalists in the open a year ago, began this year's tournament Monday and continued heading in different directions.

Defending champion Sampras, a splash of colour across the right breast of his otherwise traditional white outfit defeated Christo Van Rensburg 6-0, 6-3, 6-2.

Agassi, resplendent in trendy black and white with red piping and his customary hair band, lost 7-5, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 to Aaron Krickstein. The sweep stretched Agassi's open losing streak to six straight sets, three in a row for the title against Sampras and three more against Krickstein.

Sampras admitted that he came in a little nervous, hardened by the defending champion designation.

"Once I got in control, I felt fine," he said.

Sampras soared from the No. 12 seed to the championship last year, sneaking up on many of his opponents to become, at age 19, the youngest champion in the history of the tournament.

There is no sneaking up on anybody now.

"It's a bit different from last year," he said. "Now there's a little more pressure. I was a little

tight and nervous at the beginning."

Sampras said the depth of the men's draw scares him a little. "I'm capable of winning," he said. "I know that. There are six, seven, eight players capable of winning this tournament."

Agassi, however, wasn't one of them after Krickstein got through with him.

"Actually, I came in pretty confident about the way I was playing," Agassi said. "I think he had a lot more to do with what happened than I did. He played unbelievably. I didn't think he would go out there firing those kind of shots so early."

Krickstein seized the opportunity. "I have always felt I was a big-point and big-match player," he said. "I feel if I played my best, I could beat a lot of the top guys."

Krickstein's upset was constructed on 61 unforced errors and continued Agassi's Grand Slam frustrations. Beaten in the finals of the French Open the last two years as well as the U.S. Open last year, he didn't make it out of the first round this time.

John McEnroe almost was a secondary casualty of Agassi's loss. Anticipating a long match between Krickstein and Agassi, McEnroe decided to get something to eat. The next thing he knew, Agassi was out and Mac was on centre court against Glenn Layendecker, trailing 3-0.

Revamped Juventus has sight fixed on title

ROME (R) — Juventus, desperate for its first league title since 1986, has grabbed centre stage in the build-up to Italy's new soccer season which kicks off Sunday.

After a disastrous season in which the club finished seventh in the league and failed to qualify for European competition for the first time in 28 years, the Turin team has been stripped down and rebuilt for the coming campaign.

Nothing less than the championship will satisfy new coach Giovanni Trapattoni and the man whose word is law at Juventus, Gianni Agnelli, boss of the Fiat car company.

"We've started from the bottom and now we'll see what happens," Agnelli cautiously told reporters last week.

He and striker Roberto Baggio — the world's most expensive player who cost Juventus \$13 million last year — have come to an agreement, he added.

"I've told him I'll sack him if we don't win the championship this year, and he's agreed," smiled Agnelli.

This could indeed turn out to be Juventus' year.

Of the other teams in Italy's "big-four," champion Sampdoria will be the team everyone wants

to beat while AC Milan and Internazionale may be held back by injuries.

Two of Internazionale's trio of Germans, Andreas Brehme and Lothar Matthaus, have fitness problems and may not last the season out.

Brehme has been troubled by a thigh muscle injury while Matthaus has knee trouble.

Doubts also persist about Milan's Dutchman Ruud Gullit who has had four knee operations in the past two years.

Juventus itself is bubbling with confidence after the return of Trapattoni, who guided the club to six league titles between 1976 and 1986.

Striker Salvatore Schillaci, who failed to impress last season after his success as leading scorer in the 1990 World Cup, attributes his return to form in pre-season games entirely to the former Internazionale coach.

"His arrival has been fundamental in my improvement," he said. "Last season was a total disaster but that's all changed now."

Juventus has strengthened its

suspect defence by buying Bayern Munich players Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter and has brought back in an executive role Giampero Boniperti who was president of the club in its glory years.

Early results have been impressive. Juventus won eight out of nine friendlies in August, culminating in a thrilling 2-1 win over Milan last week.

Overall, the league itself may lack a touch of its usual sparkle this year, with Diego Maradona gone from Napoli and no obvious successor in sight to assume his twin roles of soccer genius and media favourite.

Of the newcomers, the most expensive close season signing has been David Platt, the 25-year-old English international midfielder who moved to Bari from Aston Villa for \$9.45 million last month.

Platt quickly earned respect on the pitch with hat-tricks in two consecutive friendlies — though his more recent form has been less impressive — and he has cuddled up to the notoriously fickle Italian press with a string of gushing compliments.

Norway confident of beating Soviets in European soccer

OSLO (R) — Norway, boosted by an upset win over Italy in June, are confident they can repeat the dose against the Soviet Union in a European Soccer Championship qualifying match Wednesday.

"I can see no reason why this Norwegian team shouldn't be able to beat the Soviet Union," said coach Egil Olsen.

Olsen has become a national hero since his team beat Italy 2-1 in Oslo in one of the country's greatest soccer triumphs.

Norway's chances could be improved as the Soviet players, arriving from a country swept by political upheaval, may find it hard to concentrate on their game.

But the Soviet Union lead group three with seven points

from four games and have yet to concede a goal. Norway are level on points with the Soviets but have played a game more.

The Soviet team cruised to a 2-0 win over Norway in Moscow last September with goals from Andrei Kanchelskis and Oleg Kuznetsov.

Norway's confidence has scarcely been dented by a 2-1 home defeat to arch-rivals Sweden in a friendly this summer which put an end to their record run of eight games without defeat.

"We have a good balance in the team now," Olsen said.

The coach is expected to bolster his attack Wednesday by fielding two strikers, against just one in the Italy match.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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WATCH THOSE ENTRIES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 5 3

♥ 7 4 2

♦ A Q J 9 3

♣ Q 5

EAST

♠ J 10 9 7

♥ K Q 10 6

♦ 6 4

♣ J 7 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q 8 4 2

♥ J 9

♦ K 10 3

♣ A 10 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Expert declarer study: a hand

carefully and try to arrange the play

to guard against unforeseen circum-

stances. Less skilled players are of-

ten unaware of the stormclouds

looming on the horizon. This hand

illustrates our point.

With a sound opening bid and two

honors in responder's suit, South

had no qualms about raising to

three diamonds—modern theory

does not require extra values for

that action. North showed spade

support and the major-suit game

was reached in quick time.

The defenders started with three

rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing

the third. An expert sitting in the South seat would make short shrift of this hand—it's a textbook situation. Declarer cashes the king and queen of spades and, if both defenders follow, draws the remaining trump and claims 11 tricks.

If either defender shows out, declarer abandons trumps and starts to run diamonds. The defender with the long trumps can ruff whenever it pleases, but declarer wins any return, draws the remaining trump, ending in dummy, and takes 10 tricks—four diamonds, five trumps and the ace of clubs.

An ingenious South might overlook the danger posed by a 4-1 trump break and tackle the hand too casually. After ruffing the third heart, suppose declarer draws two rounds of trumps by cashing the king and ace. When trumps don't break well, there's no way to recover. If declarer cashes the queen of spades and then goes after diamonds, West ruffs the third diamond and leads another heart. The best declarer can do is concede the trump immediately, but the defenders will then cash a third heart for down one.

Abandoning trumps to strat running diamonds is no better. West ruffs the third round and exits with a trump. Declarer now has to lead clubs from hand, and the result is down two!

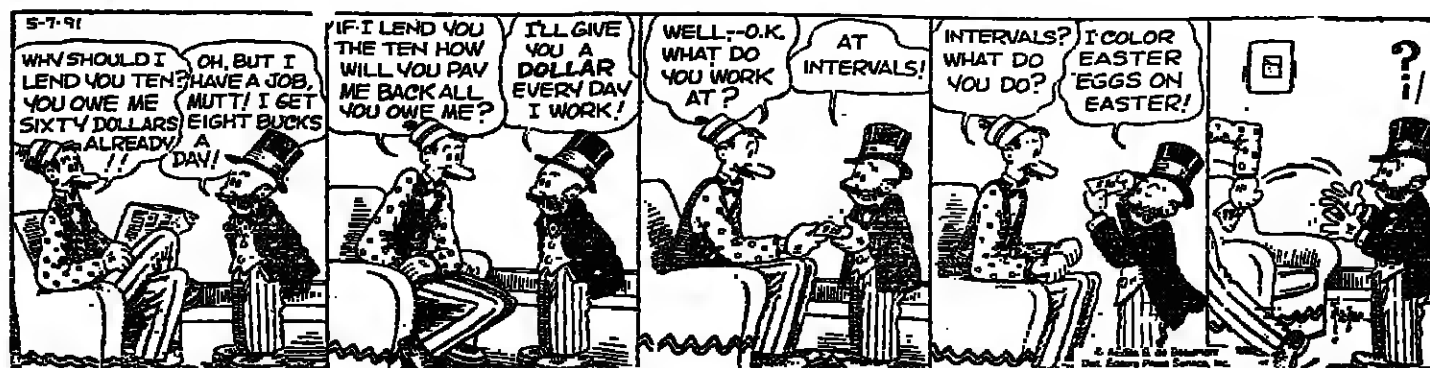
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get all your behind the scene and personal chores handled in such a manner that you can keep them in back of you so that you can use your valuable time for more vital and important matters.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You naturally analyse and weigh everything before you say or do it but now you are able to gain the good will of allies by a direct approach.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more open and above board with that financial person who is able to help you have more of this world's goods and you get far more cooperation from him.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your time to actually make sure you get together with all persons you like and to join forces with them in gaining their ambition.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the need now to retire within yourself and think what you can do to gain those cherished aims that mean much to you but keep a distance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever friends you like the most are available and in a good mood to let you know what they will do to back up your aims and show you a good time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to have the support of one in high office if you are to have that civic outlet, credit improvement that means so very much to you.

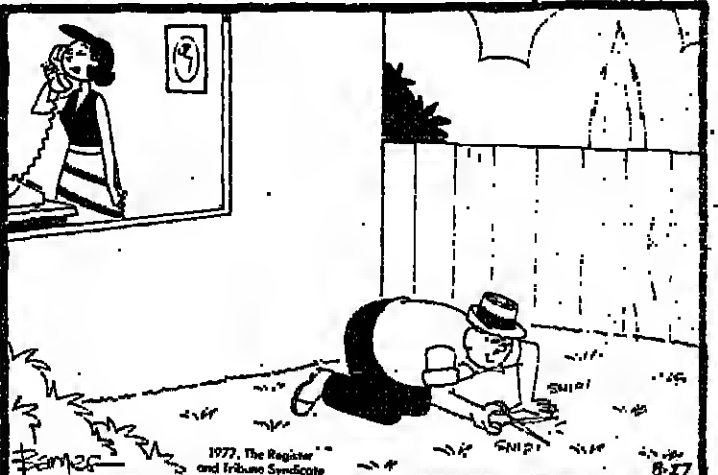
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Discuss with those you're associated side-by-side with and find out what they will do to bring you and them better results by your coordinate efforts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your home is the center of

Birth Stone for January: Garnet.

World Resources - Dayton & Co., Inc. Amman, Rio De Janeiro, Arman, Amra, Nabe, Sp. corse

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"Mother, Stanley says he'll go and pick you up as soon as he finishes cutting the grass."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MACHP

CURCO

SAQUEY

NILMAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAWKY SLANT KILLER MADMAN

Answer: He bought a pocket-sized tape recorder because he liked this—SMALL TALK

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine

ACROSS

1 Workshop for chemists

5 Venetian magistrates

10 Dope

15 Parache

16 Mis Wintrey

17 Arachnid

18 Proficient

19 Rivalry vehicle

20 Out of control

21 In city

22 Mollusk

24 Make-believe

26 Tool for making holes

28 One in a million?

30 Familiar noun of plume

31 Lack of couch

34 Move

38 Goddess of youth

39 Follow

41 At leisure

42 Gals next

44 Gls

46 off (completes)

48 Sch. subj.

49 Gain

50 Does a printer's job

54 Vote out

56 McGuffey's book

57 Cosmetics of a sort

61 James — Jones

62 Puppeteer

64 Sports gp.

65 Forsee

66 Type of architecture

67 Pack light

68 Biochemist's concern

69 Joint

70 Sheltered

Financial Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tel Aviv Close
U.S. Dollar	1.6802	1.6785
British Pound	1.7485	1.7477
Deutsche Mark	1.5246	1.5265
French Franc	5.9365	5.9405
Japanese Yen	156.90	157.05
European Currency Unit	1.1750	1.1736

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68	5.81	6.06
British Pound	10.87	10.68	10.62	10.62
Deutsche Mark	8.81	9.00	9.18	9.31
French Franc	8.06	7.93	7.87	7.68
Japanese Yen	9.16	9.51	9.43	9.43
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.78	9.87	9.93

Currency	USD/Gm	JD/Gm	USD/Gm	JD/Gm
Gold	354.80	6.95	Silver	3.95

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.690	.692
British Pound	1.582	1.640
Deutsche Mark	.3948	.3968
French Franc	.4525	.4548
Japanese Yen	.1161	.1168
Dutch Guilder	.5053	.5058
Swedish Krona	.3504	.3522
Italian Lira	.1088	.1093
Belgian Franc	.0529	.0532
Spanish Peseta	.01912	.01922

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7850	1.7900
British Pound	.0770	.0780
Deutsche Mark	.1835	.1842
French Franc	.1865	.1880
Japanese Yen	.2100	.2300
Dutch Guilder	1.7450	1.7600
Swedish Krona	.1865	.1880
Italian Lira	.3400	.3500
Belgian Franc	1.4200	1.4500

Index	25/8/1991 Close	26/8/1991 Close
All Share	107.16	106.95
Banking Sector	100.79	100.00
Insurance Sector	118.46	118.25
Industry Sector	114.18	113.95
Services Sector	128.63	128.27

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	25/8/1991 Close	26/8/1991 Close
U.S. dollar	1.6770/80	1.6780/90
Canadian dollar	1.450/35	1.450/35
Deutsche marks	1.750/15	1.750/15
Swiss francs	1.525/65	1.525/65
Belgian francs	35.97/36.02	35.97/36.02
French francs	5.930/50	5.930/50
Italian lire	1307/1308	1307/1308
Japanese yen	137.20/30	137.20/30
Swedish crowns	6.340/3530	6.340/3530
Norwegian crowns	6.5370/8420	6.5370/8420
Danish crowns	6.7540/50	6.7540/50
U.S. dollars	354.10/60	354.10/60

Bush provides immediate \$315 agricultural credit guarantees to Soviets

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush advanced the timetable Monday for providing credit guarantees to the Soviet Union to buy livestock feed and grains faster.

At a news conference, Mr. Bush said he was making \$315 million in agricultural credit guarantees available immediately to help the Soviet Union replenish food supplies.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who was visiting Mr. Bush and also appeared at the news conference, said the United States and Canada support food aid to the Soviet Union to help it through the dismantling of its communist government.

"The president and I agreed today to support very actively initiatives for food aid to ensure that basic needs are met in the Soviet Union throughout what is clearly a difficult and challenging period," Mr. Mulroney said.

Moscow, which has used \$1.6 billion worth of U.S. government-backed credit guarantees so far this year to buy food, had asked more credit be made available quickly, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said in a statement.

Originally, Moscow was not slated to receive more credit guarantees, under which the U.S. government backs 98 per cent of private bank loans to the Soviet Union, until October.

The Agriculture Department said Moscow will use \$150 million of the credits to buy feedgrains, \$90 million to buy soybean meal, \$45 million to buy wheat or flour and \$30 million to cover shipping costs.

The department said it was not increasing the amount of credits Moscow will receive, just making some available sooner than originally planned.

The Soviet Union is to receive another \$585 million in credits after Oct. 1, the start of the next fiscal year, the department said.

U.S. farm groups had lobbied the White House to advance or increase the credits in hopes of selling more grain quickly and boosting grain prices.

Soviet and U.S. officials had been meeting over the last couple of weeks to discuss changing the timetable for the credits, although last week's attempt to oust Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev interrupted the meetings.

Moscow had difficulty earlier this summer obtaining bank loans under the credits, even though the United States covers most of the risk.

Some analysts said Moscow should have an easier time as the failed coup improves the chances for Soviet market reform.

Gorbachev seeks removal of all obstacles to market economy

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that the Soviet Union should move quickly to a market economy following last week's failed hardline coup.

Speaking to the Soviet parliament, he also said that the centre of economic decision-making should be moved from Moscow to the republics after 70 years of strict Kremlin control of resources, production and trade.

And he said the West was ready to help the Soviet Union out of its economic morass with increased aid.

"First of all, measures must include elimination of all obstacles to a market economy presented by the old structures and people," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"We must grant complete freedom of enterprise, eliminate monopolism, accelerate the creation of necessary market institutions," he pointed out.

The radical government of the Russian Republic meanwhile strengthened its grip on Soviet policy when seven Russian officials were named to take over the Soviet central bank and economic ministries until a new central government is formed.

Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, appointed by Mr. Gorbachev to chair a committee overseeing economic affairs pending the creation of a new government, announced the move.

Andrei Zverev was named as chairman of the Soviet central bank, replacing Viktor Gerashchenko. Valery Telegin was named head of the foreign trade bank, which services the country's foreign debt.

Mr. Silayev's committee includes radical economist Grigory Yavlinsky, co-author of a plan, the "grand bargain," for introducing a market system with substantial help from Western credits and investment.

Mr. Yavlinsky told the newspaper Izvestia that the committee did not intend to duplicate the responsibility of local governments or try to control the economy from the centre.

He said the committee would try to coordinate efforts of republics aimed at pulling the country out of economic crisis.

In his speech to parliament, Mr. Gorbachev said genuine land reform was necessary, along with measures to combat the budget deficit, make the rouble convertible and control the expanding money supply.

The country was "in new circumstances" after the failed coup, Mr. Gorbachev said, and could tackle anew the economic problems which had festered for so long.

But it faced problems preparing for this autumn and winter and would have to work to guarantee supplies of food and energy.

"At this difficult hour I appeal to farmers and to all those who work in the oil, gas, coal and energy complex, to stay on the job until we have succeeded in solving these main issues," Mr. Gorbachev said.

The disastrous state of the Soviet economy was one of the problems the coup plotters cited as reasons for overthrowing Mr. Gorbachev a week ago. He was restored to power after three days.

Industrial production has plummeted, the budget deficit has soared and the money supply has exploded as increasing political chaos has strained the old centrally-planned economy to the point of collapse.

During the past 18 months the leadership has debated a multitude of economic reforms but has been unwilling to take the plunge and embrace capitalism after seven decades of communism.

Mr. Gorbachev's speech indicated he was more ready to push ahead with radical reforms than he had been before the hardliners who had opposed them were discredited during the coup.

But his own powers have been greatly weakened by the coup and the subsequent increase in the authority of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who led resistance to the takeover.

Kuwait's Ahmadi refinery resumes operations

KUWAIT (R) — Ahmadi refinery, the biggest in Kuwait, resumed operations Tuesday for the first time since Iraq's invasion forced its closure more than a year ago, officials told Reuters.

"It is a great day," said Adel Sharhan, loss prevention manager at the refinery.

"I feel a great sense of joy to see the refinery coming back alive again," he said.

The initial output of 110,000 barrels per day (b/d) enables the emirate to halt imports of almost all refined products, including petrol and fuel for power and desalination plants.

The reopening marks a milestone in Kuwait's recovery from Iraq's invasion last August when the refinery had a capacity of 370,000 b/d.

Output from Ahmadi is being processed by the crude distillation unit number 4, the first of the three units to become fully operational.

The other two units were put out of action during the Gulf war and are scheduled to go on stream in June 1992.

The refinery was badly damaged in fighting between the U.S.-led allies and the Iraqis.

Technicians have been working since March to repair war damage and clear mines and unexploded bombs.

Kuwait, a major exporter of refined products before the Iraqi invasion, will resume exports in December when the Mina Al Abdullah refinery goes back on stream with a daily capacity of 100,000 barrels.

Output from Mina Al Abdullah is expected to rise to 150,000 in January.

Saudi Arabia boosts oil output to increase stocks

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest exporter, has boosted crude output to build up stocks because it expects higher winter demand and lower Soviet production, Gulf industry sources say.

Estimates for wellhead production during most of August varied between an average 8.35 to 8.6 million barrels per day (b/d), well above Riyadh's third quarter OPEC sales quota of 8.034 million b/d.

But industry sources in the kingdom said most of the excess was being put into domestic or overseas storage to replenish reserves, which fell sharply during the first half of 1991.

The failed coup in the Soviet Union, the world's biggest producer, increased Saudi concern that it would be unable to respond to any shortage of oil on world markets, they said.

"They are pulling out all stops — there is concern that there might be a shortfall in the winter and they are trying to stock up by replenishing reserves which ran down during the (Gulf) war," one industry executive said.

"They were very concerned by the Soviet coup because they were not in a position to intervene to maintain market harmony," he added.

Saudi Arabia sells from its overseas stocks when prices jump to stabilise markets and maintain long term demand for its oil.

Last week crude prices surged to the highest levels seen since the Gulf war on fears the coup in Moscow would threaten already declining Soviet supply.

The International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog, says Soviet output in first-half 1991 fell 10 per cent to 10.75 million b/d from a year ago, while second quarter exports of 2.8 million b/d were down almost 20 per cent from 1990.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Saudi Arabia's overseas reserves were drawn down to between 20 and 25 million barrels — their minimum operational level — during the first half of 1991.

Riyadh was keen to boost them back to around 50 million barrels by the end of the year, they said.

"The Saudis are scrambling to increase stocks — they expect demand to tighten during the fourth quarter and they want to have as much availability as they can," said one source.

Between 200,000 and 500,000 b/d were going into stocks, the sources said. Output estimates of 8.35-8.6 million b/d included around 100,000 b/d from the Neutral Zone shared with Kuwait.

Several sources said that after the Soviet coup attempt, Riyadh briefly boosted output to nine million b/d, its maximum surge capacity, for the first time since last February.

The figure could not be confirmed but Saudi oil officials are keen to acknowledge that state oil firm Saudi Aramco is able to produce this amount. They say plans to increase capacity to a sustainable 10 million b/d by the end of 1994 are going ahead.

Saudi Arabia would push for an increase in its own crude sales quota as well as the overall OPEC (Organisation Petroleum Producing Countries) output ceiling during the group's next meeting in Geneva on Sept. 24, the oil sources said.

Mexican government sells crown jewel of bank privatisation programme

MEXICO CITY (R) — The controlling interest in the largest Mexican state-owned bank has been sold to Mexico's leading brokerage firm for \$3.19 billion, the finance ministry said Monday.

It said that the sale of the controlling interest of Banco Nacional de Mexico (Banamex) to the Acciones Y Valores (Accival) firm was one of the biggest bank sell-offs ever.

The price represented 2.62 times the bank's net worth, the ministry said.

Banamex is the seventh bank to be auctioned off under the privatisation programme announced last year by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Banamex is the crown jewel of the privatisation programme and a driving force behind Mexico's booming stock market. It has more than 720 branches and more than \$25 billion in assets.

Its capital, while modest by international standards, represents nearly 30 per cent of the Mexican banking industry's total \$92 billion in assets.

According to the finance ministry, Banamex's assets also represent 8.4 per cent of Mexico's expected gross domestic product this year.

Accival has been Mexico's strongest brokerage house for the last decade and manages around 35 per cent of total foreign investment in the Mexican stock market.

Analysts said its merger with Banamex, which dominates foreign trade financing, would give it easy leadership of the financial sector.

Accival, backed by 700 individual entrepreneurs, competed with a consortium of Mexico's oldest and most prestigious companies headed by Grupo Desc, a petrochemical and car parts giant, in the bidding for Banamex.

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FAST FOR WORD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Croatia moves towards full mobilisation after intense fighting

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Croatia's government urged all-out mobilisation Tuesday to meet what it said was growing Serbian and army aggression on the secessionist republic, Zagreb television said.

Hina, the Croatian News Agency, said the government would pass unspecified measures for the defence of Croatia at a session likely to be held later Tuesday. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman told Britain's Sky TV News: "In future days we will have war."

At a three-hour session that lasted past midnight, the government also urged a ban on army movements in Croatia.

It said in a statement that a Western embargo on arms imports should be lifted and that "loyal Serbs" living in Croatia should be asked to defend the republic.

On Monday, army tanks and planes blasted Croatian units in some of the heaviest fighting in the republic.

Belgrade television said fighting continued Tuesday at several locations in Krajina, near the Adriatic coast. Croatian Radio reported renewed clashes across a swath spreading from the Dalmatian hinterland to Slavonia, a

region in eastern Croatia bordering Serbia.

The army was involved in several clashes, Croatian Radio said. The report could not be independently confirmed.

The Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, reported that Monday's fighting, in eastern Croatia and near the Adriatic coast, killed 12 people. The Croatian Ministry of Information said 80 people were wounded.

Army units backed by tanks and planes and Serb militiamen Monday captured the village of Kijevo, a Croatian stronghold in the self-proclaimed Serb autonomous region of Krajina.

The final decision on mobilisation rests with Mr. Tudjman. But sources in Croatia reported that a call-up of reservists had already begun there.

Croatian leaders threatened earlier in the month to order general mobilisation unless the federal army withdraws to its barracks by Saturday. There have been no signals that the army plans to comply with the demand.

Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence on June 25. Croatian Deputy Premier Mato Granic said 250 people had been killed and 820 injured since then, in clashes pitting Croatian secur-

ity forces against the army and against Serb guerrillas opposed to Croatia's secession.

The collective state presidency, the nominal commander of the armed forces is split along Serb-Croat lines and has been unable to control the Yugoslav crisis.

The eight member presidency ordered a ceasefire on Aug. 7, but the truce failed to hold. A presidency meeting, called for Tuesday by its chairman, Croatia's Stipe Mesic, was indefinitely postponed, Tanjug reported.

Croatia's 600,000 Serbs — about 12 per cent of the republic's population — say they intend to keep territory under their control as part of Yugoslavia if Croatia leaves the federation.

Croatia accuses Serbia, the largest republic, of instigating the fighting in a drive to expand its borders, and of using the federal army, whose officers' corps is mostly Serb, for its aims.

Foreign governments increasingly accept Croatian claims of army bias.

Germany Tuesday demanded that Yugoslavia's and Serbia's armed forces cease their actions against the Republic of Croatia. Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made the demand dur-

ing a meeting in Bonn with Vladimir Jovanovic, foreign minister of Serbia.

At a meeting of European Community foreign ministers in Belgium Tuesday, Germany and Italy were expected to urge the 10 other EC members to recognise Croatia and Slovenian independence if the fighting continued.

Austria said Monday it was ready to establish diplomatic relations with the two republics if other European countries were willing to do so.

Serbia claims that Croatian authorities are persecuting the Serbian minority, a charge denied by the republic's government.

Hatreds have been fed by Serbian nationalist memories of the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Serbs under Croatia's Nazi puppet government in World War II.

Croatia has accused the army of siding with rebel Serbs, pointing out that federal troops in the republic fight almost exclusively against Croatian units.

The army says it is only trying to establish buffer zones between the warring ethnic groups and suggests that Croatian fighters provoke it, asserting that federal troops fire only when attacked.



Norodom Sihanouk

Cambodian civil war 'is over'

PATTAYA, Thailand (R) — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk declared 12 years of war in his country over Tuesday, after the government and its guerrilla foes agreed to cut their armies and hand in their weapons.

The breakthrough on the second day of peace talks in this seaside resort paves the way for a U.N. peacekeeping force to go to Cambodia to supervise the armistice until elections.

Prince Sihanouk said demobilisation would begin when a planned United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) arrived. A date has still to be decided.

"The war is over, over," Prince Sihanouk told reporters after the morning session.

"Yes, it's over," Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen said.

The government and each of the three guerrilla factions allied against it will reduce their forces by 70 per cent, Prince Sihanouk said, speaking as chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC) that brings together the rivals.

The remaining 30 per cent will be grouped in cantonments where they will surrender their guns to U.N. forces, he said, reading from an accord.

"Nobody is allowed to fight... they are like civilians with uniforms," he said.

Government police will be under UNTAC control, he said. "It's great that they have an accord but I see problems with numbers," a European diplomat said. "Who's to say how many are in the jungle?"

The International Institute for Strategic Studies puts the government military at about 100,000. Analysts estimate the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge have 35,000 fighters, their allies the Khmer People's National Liberation Front about 10,000, and forces loyal to Sihanouk, commanded by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, under 10,000.

The exact figures are likely to be a matter of dispute.

The agreement reached by the Cambodians needs to be approved by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, who are to meet here after the SNC talks end Wednesday.

"Our American friends may say this is not so good. I think the others will agree," Prince Sihanouk said.

1 killed, 12 rescued in U.S. helicopter crash

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A helicopter ferrying workers between shore and a Gulf of Mexico oil drilling platform crashed Monday, killing one person and injuring at least six, authorities said.

Neill Osborne, vice president of operations for Petroleum Helicopters Inc. in Lafayette, said 13 people were believed to be aboard the company helicopter that crashed about 270 kilometres south of Lafayette.

One man's body was found in the wreckage and 12 crash survivors were picked up by workers from the nearby offshore oil rig, the coast guard said.

"The rig that was out there had two inflatable boats and they launched those," said a Coast Guard spokesman, chief Petty Officer Joe Gibson.

At least six injured people were taken by Coast Guard helicopter to a hospital near New Orleans, Officer Gibson said.

The helicopter was floating after it crashed, Mr. Osborne said. Helicopters from companies like Petroleum Helicopters Inc. are often used to ferry offshore oil and gas rig workers to and from their jobs.

Mr. Osborne said the helicopter's destination when it left the mainland this morning was an offshore platform and it was near that point when it crashed.

U.S., Philippines sign military bases pact

MANILA (R) — The Philippines and the United States signed a treaty Tuesday allowing U.S. use of a major naval base defending vital trade routes into the 21st century, but officials said the pact faced a battle for ratification.

Philippine President Corason Aquino called the treaty a "pragmatic investment in our economic future" and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said it would guarantee South East Asian security for another decade.

Hundreds of diplomats and Philippine officials applauded after Mr. Manglapus and U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner signed the treaty of friendship, cooperation and security ending 15 months of tortuous negotiations on the future of almost a century of U.S. military presence in the country.

Mrs. Aquino, who witnessed the presidential palace ceremony, said the treaty set the seal on a new relationship between Washington and its former colony, enhancing trade ties and supporting Philippine industrialisation and the economy.

"More important than the military-based portion for the Philippines, the treaty is a straightforward, pragmatic investment in our economic future," she said.

Japan and South East Asia have backed the accord, which allows U.S. forces use of Subic Bay Naval Dockyard for 10 more years in return for annual compensation of \$203 million.

The United States relinquished Clark Air Base, the former headquarters of the U.S. 13th Air

Force that was badly damaged by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo volcano in June.

Mr. Wisner said the pact marked a watershed in relations. "In these changing times, it is important that we pull even closer together," he said.

The invasion of Kuwait and the coup attempt in the Soviet Union remind us how fragile is the peace."

Mr. Manglapus said the treaty would buy time for South East Asia to take over its own security.

The treaty needs two-thirds, or 16 votes, in the 23-member Philippine Senate to be ratified.

Several senators oppose it. Mr. Wisner said he was confident Mrs. Aquino, who has been lobbying the senate to ratify the pact, would secure the votes.

Some senators want certain conditions met before they vote for it, Presidential Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said.

"I would say it's an uphill battle," Mr. Drilon said. "We're at the foot of the hill."

Senate Foreign Relations Committee chief Leticia Shahani said the treaty could win 14 votes in the chamber.

Some senators say compensation is too low and the duration too long. Others say the bases violate Philippine sovereignty.

"This is an insult to the Filipino people," Senator Joseph Estrada said. "I am hopeful we will reject the treaty."

Rejection would force the United States to withdraw its remaining 8,000 servicemen and close Subic, its largest ship repair yard and naval ammunition and supply depot in Asia.

India and Pakistan trade charges over Kashmir clash

NEW DELHI (R) — Old enemies India and Pakistan traded charges Tuesday over a clash in disputed Kashmir, giving radically different and conflicting accounts.

A Pakistani military spokesman in Islamabad accused India of sending troops across the line dividing the two parts of the Himalayan region and said the assault was repulsed with heavy Indian losses.

An Indian army spokesman said the Pakistani account was "not true" and that Pakistani shelling killed two Indian soldiers as they searched a village on the Indian side of the line for Kashmiri militants fighting Delhi's rule.

Indian troops cordoned off Kirin village to search it for militants after a tip-off that a group had crossed from the Pakistani side, he said.

"The Pakistanis started shell-

ing the village to give the militants a chance to run for the border," the Indian spokesman said.

He said Indian troops fired at the fleeing militants, hitting five or six who were seen being carried unconscious, possibly dead, across the border by colleagues.

The Pakistani spokesman said about 100 Indian soldiers crossed the line to try to capture positions at Nezapur, in the same area as Kirin.

"The assault was preceded by heavy small arms fire from the Indian positions in the area. The attack was effectively repulsed with heavy Indian casualties," the official Pakistani account said.

It said the bodies of Indian troops were lying on slopes below the Pakistani post.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars, regularly exchange charges over incidents in Kashmir.

Africa submits 6 candidates for U.N. secretary-general

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Africa has staked a claim to the post of U.N. Secretary-General by submitting the names of six candidates for the job, to be filled during the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council circulated Monday, the African group of states said the six were endorsed by a committee of heads of state and government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is completing his second five-year term, which expires on Dec. 31.

More than two dozen names have been mentioned in the informal speculation about a successor, including those of several Africans, but no clear front-runner has yet emerged.

The official African candidates are Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali; Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero; Kenneth Daddie of Ghana; Secretary-General of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development James Jonah of Sierra Leone; U.N. Undersecretary-general for special political questions former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and former physics Professor and Culture Minister Nguena Francois Owono of Gabon.

"In communicating these names the African group hopes that the international community will give an African the opportunity to serve in this highest position of the world organisation," the letter said.

Signed by Ambassador Nabil Al Arabi of Egypt, chairman of the U.N. African Group, and by Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, representing the current OAU chairman, it said any one of the African candidates would serve with the same distinction as those Africans who had occupied other high positions in the U.N. system.

No African has yet held the post of secretary-general. It has

been filled by three Europeans, an Asian and a Latin American, although unlike many other U.N. positions, it is not governed by the principle of regional rotation.

The General Assembly begins its annual three-month session on Sept. 17. But will not act on naming a secretary-general until it gets a recommendation from the Security Council.

According to a source, the permanent members of the Security Council hope it will be able to come up with a recommendation some time in October.

The selection process gives the council's five veto-wielding permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France — a decisive voice. Repeated Chinese vetoes harried Mr. Waldheim from a third term.

The first incumbent was Trygve Lie of Norway followed by Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden, U. Thant of Burma, Dr. Kurt Waldheim of Austria and Mr. Perez de Cuellar, a veteran Peruvian diplomat, who took office on Jan. 1, 1982.

Some observers are not convinced the 71-year-old Perez de Cuellar would not be available for any least part of an unprecedented third term.

Other candidates who figure prominently in speculation include Prince Sarduddin Aga Khan, who has spent much of his career in U.N. service and heads U.N. humanitarian operations in and around Iraq; Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas; former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez; Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and Maurice Strong, Canadian secretary-general of a U.N. environmental conference scheduled for 1992 year.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter have also appeared on unofficial lists of candidates.

COLUMN

Tokyo's drinkers might get late transport

TOKYO (R) — Tokyo uppers might be able to drink a few more beers and sing a few more songs in future because the transport authority has asked private railway firms to run after midnight. Japanese office workers, with their ties undone, rubbery legs and an endless repertoire of songs, are a common feature of railway stations as midnight approaches. A Transport Ministry official said Tuesday that it had asked the firms in Tokyo to extend their services to match growing late-night activities in Tokyo.

Scores in U.S. college exams fall to all-time low

NEW YORK (AP) — Scores in the verbal section of the scholastic aptitude test, a college entrance examination, fell to a record low last year, the college board reported Monday. Math scores also sank for the first time since 1980. Board President Donald Stewart said the drop signaled a "disturbing pattern of educational disparity" in which too many students aren't studying enough advanced high school courses to do well on the examination. Math averages declined two points to 474 among students taking the test in the 1990-91 school year, while scores on the verbal section averaged 422. The verbal averages were the lowest since national records were kept in 1969. Verbal scores hit a recent peak of 451 in 1985, but have slid steadily ever since. Both sections of the multiple choice exam taken by more than 1 million high school students are scored on a scale of 200-800, with a combined 1600 being the highest possible. The college board, a private, not-profit education organisation, sponsors the test.

Marriage popularity declines in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The popularity of marriage in the United States fell in the late 1980s to the lowest level in two decades, the National Centre for Health Statistics said in a report released Monday. More Americans are postponing marriage — preferring to pursue careers and further education — and the divorced and widowed are waiting longer to re-marry, said centre demographer Barbara Foley Wilson. Figures show 2,395,926 couples married in 1988, the latest year for which data were available, down 0.3 per cent from 1987. It marked the fourth consecutive year in which the rate declined in the United States. Between 1940 and 1988 the number of marriages rose in 31 of the 48 years and it has never before dropped for more than three years in a row. "Marriage as an institution isn't faltering, but adjusting with some difficulties to changing times," Ms. Wilson said. "It's possible that everybody will marry currently they are taking their time about it," she added. She said marriage rates were highest for men and women in their 20s, dropping away after the age of 30.

'Gentleman bandit' plans to surrender

HOUSTON (AP) — Apparently a gentleman to the end, a man who claims to be the dapper "gentleman bandit" responsible for robbing about 100 salesmen in Texas and Louisiana arranged his surrender to police Tuesday, his lawyer said. Attorney Allen Isbell said his 49-year-old client got a guilty conscience after another man was jailed for 11 days in connection with the heists. "He said, 'I can't let some body suffer for what I've done,'" Mr. Isbell said. He said his client, whose identity was withheld, agreeing to plead guilty to two robbery charges for a recommended 35-year prison sentence. The agreement would clear some 90 robberies from the books of two states. The surrender was to take place Tuesday morning. Ted Wilson, an assistant district attorney, said Monday he had discussions with the man's lawyers, but "nothing is in writing yet." Victims have described the gentleman bandit as soft-spoken and polite as he preyed on travelling businessmen staying at plush hotels in Texas and Louisiana over the past two years. Wilson said the bandit — who wore a suit — once called a burglar a victim who suffered a heart attack during a robbery and even called a few victims at home to see if they had recovered from the ordeal.



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